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THE

# WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE

## OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE

## UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

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PREPARED BY

The late Lieut. Col. **ROBERT N. SCOTT**, Third U. S. Artillery.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

The Hon. **REDFIELD PROCTOR**, Secretary of War,

BY

MAJ. GEORGE B. DAVIS, U. S. A.,
MR. LESLIE J. PERRY,
MR. JOSEPH W. KIRKLEY,
*Board of Publication.*


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**SERIES I—VOLUME XXXII—IN THREE PARTS.**

PART I—REPORTS.

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# PREFACE.

By an act approved June 23, 1874, Congress made an appropriation "to enable the Secretary of War to begin the publication of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, both of the Union and Confederate Armies," and directed him "to have copied for the Public Printer all reports, letters, telegrams, and general orders not heretofore copied or printed, and properly arranged in chronological order."*

Appropriations for continuing such preparation have been made from time to time, and the act approved June 16, 1880, has provided "for the printing and binding, under direction of the Secretary of War, of 10,000 copies of a compilation of the Official Records (Union and Confederate) of the War of the Rebellion, so far as the same may be ready for publication, during the fiscal year"; and that "of said number 7,000 copies shall be for the use of the House of Representatives, 2,000 copies for the use of the Senate, and 1,000 copies for the use of the Executive Departments."*

* Volumes I to V distributed under act approved June 16, 1880. The act approved August 7, 1882, provides that—

"The volumes of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion shall be distributed as follows: One thousand copies to the Executive Departments, as now provided by law. One thousand copies for distribution by the Secretary of War among officers of the Army and contributors to the work. Eight thousand three hundred copies shall be sent by the Secretary of War to such libraries, organizations, and individuals as may be designated by the Senators, Representatives, and Delegates of the Forty-seventh Congress. Each Senator shall designate not exceeding twenty-six, and each Representative and Delegate not exceeding twenty-one of such addresses, and the volumes shall be sent thereto from time to time as they are published, until the publication is completed. Senators, Representatives, and Delegates shall inform the Secretary of War in each case how many volumes of those heretofore published they have forwarded to such addresses. The remaining copies of the eleven thousand to be published, and all sets that may not be ordered to be distributed as provided herein, shall be sold by the Secretary of War for cost of publication with ten per cent. added thereto, and the proceeds of such sale shall be covered into the Treasury. If two or more sets of said volumes are ordered to the same address the Secretary of War shall inform the Senators, Representatives, or Delegates, who have designated the same, who thereupon may designate other libraries, organizations, or individuals. The Secretary of War shall report to the first session of the Forty-eighth Congress what volumes of the series heretofore published have not been furnished to such libraries, organizations, and individuals. He shall also inform distributees at whose instance the volumes are sent."

This compilation will be the first general publication of the military records of the war, and will embrace all official documents that can be obtained by the compiler, and that appear to be of any historical value.

The publication will present the records in the following order of arrangement:

The **1st Series** will embrace the formal reports, both Union and Confederate, of the first seizures of United States property in the Southern States, and of all military operations in the field, with the correspondence, orders, and returns relating specially thereto, and, as proposed, is to be accompanied by an Atlas.

In this series the reports will be arranged according to the campaigns and several theaters of operations (in the chronological order of the events), and the Union reports of any event will, as a rule, be immediately followed by the Confederate accounts. The correspondence, &c., not embraced in the "reports" proper will follow (first Union and next Confederate) in chronological order.

The **2d Series** will contain the correspondence, orders, reports, and returns, Union and Confederate, relating to prisoners of war, and (so far as the military authorities were concerned) to State or political prisoners.

The **3d Series** will contain the correspondence, orders, reports, and returns of the Union authorities (embracing their correspondence with the Confederate officials) not relating specially to the subjects of the *first* and *second* series. It will set forth the annual and special reports of the Secretary of War, of the General-in-Chief, and of the chiefs of the several staff corps and departments; the calls for troops, and the correspondence between the national and the several State authorities.

The **4th Series** will exhibit the correspondence, orders, reports, and returns of the Confederate authorities, similar to that indicated for the Union officials, as of the *third* series, but excluding the correspondence between the Union and Confederate authorities given in that series.

ROBERT N. SCOTT,
*Major Third Art., and Bvt. Lieut. Col.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 23, 1880.

Approved:

ALEX. RAMSEY,
*Secretary of War.*

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER XLIV.


Page.

Operations in Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and North Georgia. January 1–April 30, 1864 ..... 1–703

# CONTENTS OF PRECEDING VOLUMES.

## VOLUME I.


CHAPTER I. Page.
Operations in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. December 20, 1860–April 14, 1861 ..... 1–317

CHAPTER II.
The secession of Georgia. January 3–26, 1861 ..... 318–325

CHAPTER III.
The secession of Alabama and Mississippi. January 4–20, 1861 ..... 326–330

CHAPTER IV.
Operations in Florida. January 6–August 31, 1861 ..... 331–473

CHAPTER V. Page.
The secession of North Carolina. January 9–May 20, 1861 ..... 474–488

CHAPTER VI.
The secession of Louisiana. January 10–February 19, 1861 ..... 489–501

CHAPTER VII.
Operations in Texas and New Mexico. February 1–June 11, 1861 ..... 502–636

CHAPTER VIII.
Operations in Arkansas, the Indian Territory, and Missouri. February 7–May 9, 1861 ..... 637–691


## VOLUME II.


CHAPTER IX. Page
Operations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. April 16–July 31, 1861 ..... 1–1012


## VOLUME III.


CHAPTER X. Page.
Operations in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, and Indian Territory. May 10–November 19, 1861 ..... 1–749


## VOLUME IV.


CHAPTER XI. Page.
Operations in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. June 11, 1861–February 1, 1862. 1–174

CHAPTER XII.
Operations in Kentucky and Tennessee. July 1–November 19, 1861 ..... 175–565

CHAPTER XIII. Page.
Operations in North Carolina and Southeastern Virginia. August 1, 1861–January 11, 1862 ..... 566–721


## VOLUME V.


CHAPTER XIV. Page.
Operations in Maryland, Northern Virginia, and West Virginia. August 1, 1861–March 17, 1862 ..... 1–1106


## VOLUME VI.


CHAPTER XV. Page.
Operations on the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and Middle and East Florida. August 21, 1861–April 11, 1862 ..... 1–435

CHAPTER XVI. Page.
Operations in West Florida, Southern Alabama, Southern Mississippi, and Louisiana. September 1, 1861–May 12, 1862. 436–894


## VOLUME VII.


CHAPTER XVII. Page.
Operations in Kentucky, Tennessee, N. Alabama, and S. W. Virginia. Nov. 19, 1861–Mar. 4, 1862 ..... 1–946

## VOLUME VIII.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Page.

Operations in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, and Indian Territory. Nov. 19, 1861-April 10, 1862. 1-834

## VOLUME IX.

CHAPTER XIX. Page.

Operations in Southeastern Virginia. January 11-March 17, 1862 ..... 1-71

CHAPTER XX.

Operations in North Carolina. January 11-August 20, 1862..... 72-480

CHAPTER XXI. Page.

Operations in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. February 1-September 20, 1862..... 481-730

## VOLUME X—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXII.

Operations in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Mississippi, North Alabama, and Southwest Virginia. March 4-June 10, 1862.

Page.

**Part I**—Reports..... 1-927
**Part II**—Correspondence, etc..... 1-642

## VOLUME XI—IN THREE PARTS.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Peninsular Campaign, Virginia. March 17-September 2, 1862.

Page.

**Part I**—Reports, March 17-June 24..... 1-1077
**Part II**—Reports, June 25-September 2..... 1-994
**Part III**—Correspondence, etc..... 1-691

## VOLUME XII—IN THREE PARTS.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Operations in Northern Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland. March 17-September 2, 1862.

Page.

**Part I**—Reports, March 17-June 25..... 1-818
**Part II**—Reports, June 26-September 2..... 1-820
**Part III**—Correspondence, etc..... 1-966

## VOLUME XIII.

CHAPTER XXV.

Page.

Operations in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, the Indian Territory, and the Department of the Northwest. April 10-November 20, 1862..... 1-981

## VOLUME XIV.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Page.

Operations on the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and Middle and East Florida. April 12, 1862-June 11, 1863..... 1-1025

## VOLUME XV.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Page.

Operations in West Florida, Southern Alabama, Southern Mississippi (embracing all operations against Vicksburg, May 18-July 27, 1862), and Louisiana, May 12, 1862-May 14, 1863; and operations in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. September 20, 1862-May 14, 1863..... 1-1135

## VOLUME XVI—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Operations in Kentucky, Middle and East Tennessee, North Alabama, and Southwest Virginia. June 10-October 31, 1862.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-1168 |
| **Part II**—Correspondence, etc | 1-1017 |


## VOLUME XVII—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Operations in West Tennessee and Northern Mississippi. June 10, 1862-January 20, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-807 |
| **Part II**—Correspondence, etc | 1-916 |


## VOLUME XVIII.

CHAPTER XXX.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| Operations in North Carolina and Southeastern Virginia. August 20, 1862-June 3, 1863 | 1-1104 |


## VOLUME XIX—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Operations in Northern Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. September 3-November 14, 1862.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports, September 3-20 | 1-1108 |
| **Part II**—Reports, September 20-November 14; Correspondence, etc., September 3-November 14 | 1-739 |


## VOLUME XX—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Operations in Kentucky, Middle and East Tennessee, North Alabama, and Southwest Virginia. November 1, 1862-January 20, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-997 |
| **Part II**—Correspondence, etc | 1-516 |


## VOLUME XXI.

CHAPTER XXXIII.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| Operations in Northern Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. November 15, 1862-January 25, 1863 | 1-1152 |


## VOLUME XXII—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Operations in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, the Indian Territory, and the Department of the Northwest. November 20, 1862-December 31, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-926 |
| **Part II**—Correspondence, etc | 1-1163 |

## VOLUME XXIII—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Operations in Kentucky, Middle and East Tennessee, North Alabama, and Southwest Virginia. January 21-August 10, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-858 |
| **Part II**—Correspondence, etc | 1-986 |


## VOLUME XXIV—IN THREE PARTS.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Operations in Mississippi and West Tennessee, including those in Arkansas and Louisiana connected with the Siege of Vicksburg. January 20-August 10, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports, January 20-May 15, including the "General Reports" for whole period, January 20-August 10 | -787 |
| **Part II**—Reports, May 16-August 10 | 1-699 |
| **Part III**—Correspondence, etc | 1-1070 |


## VOLUME XXV—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Operations in Northern Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. January 26-June 3, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-1119 |
| **Part II**—Correspondence, etc | 1-862 |


## VOLUME XXVI—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Operations in West Florida, Southern Alabama, Southern Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico. May 14-December 31, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports, Union Correspondence, etc | 1-920 |
| **Part II**—Confederate Correspondence, etc | 1-581 |


## VOLUME XXVII—IN THREE PARTS.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Operations in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Department of the East. June 3-August 3, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-1059 |
| **Part II**—Reports | 1-1005 |
| **Part III**—Correspondence, etc | 1-1092 |


## VOLUME XXVIII—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XL.

Operations on the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia, and in Middle and East Florida. June 12-December 31, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-755 |
| **Part II**—Correspondence, etc | 1-609 |


## VOLUME XXIX—IN TWO PARTS.

CHAPTER XLI.

Operations in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. August 4-December 31, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-1018 |
| **Part II**—Correspondence, etc | 1-933 |

## VOLUME XXX—IN FOUR PARTS.

CHAPTER XLII.

Operations in Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Alabama, and North Georgia. August 11-October 19, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports | 1-1071 |
| **Part II**—Reports | 1-821 |
| **Part III**—Union Correspondence, etc | 1-1017 |
| **Part IV**—Union and Confederate correspondence, etc | 1-768 |


## VOLUME XXXI—IN THREE PARTS.

CHAPTER XLIII.

Operations in Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Alabama, and North Georgia. October 20-December 31, 1863.


| | Page. |
|---|---|
| **Part I**—Reports and Union correspondence | 1-852 |
| **Part II**—Reports | 1-782 |
| **Part III**—Union and Confederate correspondence, etc | 1-893 |

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CHAPTER XLIV.

# OPERATIONS IN KENTUCKY, SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE, MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, AND NORTH GEORGIA.

**January 1–April 30, 1864.**

## PART I.

### SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.*

Jan. 1, 1864.—Skirmish at Dandridge, Tenn.
1–Apr. 18, 1864—Hughs' operations in Middle Tennessee.
2, 1864.—Skirmish at La Grange, Tenn.
3, 1864.—Action at Jonesville, Va.
Scout from Memphis, Tenn., toward Hernando, Miss.
4–14, 1864.—Operations about Sparta, Tenn.
5, 1864.—Skirmish at Lawrence's Mill, Tenn.
6, 1864.—Attack on steamer Delta on the Mississippi River.
Skirmish at Dalton, Ga.
9, 1864.—Skirmish at Terman's Ferry, Ky.
10, 1864.—Skirmish near Mossy Creek, Tenn.
10–11, 1864.—Scout from near Dandridge to Clark's Ferry, Tenn.
10–16, 1864.—Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to Sunnyside Landing, Ark.
11, 1864.—Scout to Lexington, Tenn.
11–12, 1864.—Expedition from Maryville up the Little Tennessee River, Tenn.
12, 1864.—Skirmish near Mossy Creek, Tenn.
Skirmish at Marshall, Ky.
13, 1864.—Skirmish at Ragland Mills, Bath County, Ky.
Skirmish near Collierville, Tenn.
13–14, 1864.—Affair at Sevierville (13th) and skirmish at Schultz' Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th).
14, 1864.—Scout from Collierville, Tenn.
Scout to Baldwin's Ferry, Big Black River, Miss.
Skirmish at Dandridge, Tenn.
Skirmish at Middleton, Tenn.
Skirmish at Shoal Creek, Ala.
16, 1864.—Skirmish in White County, Tenn.
Skirmish at Oak Ridge, Miss.

* Of some of the minor conflicts noted in this Summary, no circumstantial reports are on file. All such are designated in the Index.

Jan. 16–17, 1864.—Operations about Dandridge, Tenn., including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge.
17, 1864.—Brig. Gen. Orlando B. Willcox, U. S. Army, supersedes Brig. Gen. Robert B. Potter in command of the Ninth Army Corps.
18, 1864.—Skirmish at Grand Gulf, Miss.
19, 1864.—Skirmish at Big Springs, near Tazewell, Tenn.
20, 1864.—Naval reconnaissance of Forts Morgan and Gaines, Mobile Bay, Ala.*
Skirmish at Tracy City, Tenn.
Skirmish at Island No. 76, Mississippi River.
21, 1864.—Maj. Gen. Carl Schurz, U. S. Army, temporarily in command of the Eleventh Army Corps.
Scout from Chattanooga to Harrison and Ooltewah, Tenn.
21–22, 1864.—Skirmishes at Strawberry Plains (21st) and at Armstrong's Ferry, Tenn. (22d).
21–23, 1864.—Scout from Rossville toward Dalton, Ga., and skirmish (22d).
22, 1864.—Capture of forage-wagons near Wilsonville, Tenn.
Affair at Subligna, Ga.
22–27, 1864.—Expedition from Union City to Trenton, Tenn.
23, 1864.—Skirmish near Newport, Tenn.
Affair near Woodville, Ala.
Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Ripley, Miss.
23–29, 1864.—Operations in North Alabama.
24, 1864.—Operations near Natchez, Miss.
Capture of Union pickets at Love's Hill, near Knoxville, Tenn.
Skirmish at Tazewell, Tenn.
25, 1864.—Skirmish at La Grange, Tenn.
Skirmish at Mount Pleasant, Miss.
Corinth, Miss., evacuated by the Union forces.
25–Feb. 5, 1864.—Expedition from Scottsborough, Ala., toward Rome, Ga.
26, 1864.—Maj. Gen. John G. Parke, U. S. Army, resumes command of the Ninth Army Corps.
Skirmish near Knoxville, Tenn.
Skirmish at Sevierville, Tenn.
26–28, 1864.—Operations about Dandridge, Tenn.
27, 1864.—Skirmish near Knoxville, Tenn.
Affair on the Cumberland River, Ky.
28, 1864.—Lieutenant-General Polk's command designated Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana.
Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, U. S. Army, assigned to command of the Department of the Ohio, and Maj. Gen. George Stoneman, U. S. Army, to the command of the Twenty-third Army Corps.
Affair at Lee's House, on Cornersville Pike, Tenn.
28–29, 1864.—Skirmishes near Jonesville, Va.
28–Feb. 8, 1864.—Expedition from Gallatin to Cumberland Mountains, Tenn.
29, 1864.—Firing on steamer Sir William Wallace, Mississippi River.
29–Feb. 23, 1864.—Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to Waterproof, La., and skirmishes.

* For report of Rear-Admiral D. G. Farragut, U. S. Navy, see p. 386 of Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 5, 1864.

Jan. 30, 1864.—Skirmish at Chickamauga Creek, Ga.
31-Feb. 7, 1864.—Expedition from Maryville, Tenn., to Quallatown, N. C
Feb. 1, 1864.—Expedition from Knoxville to Flat Creek, Tenn.
1- 2, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Maryville toward Sevierville, Tenn.
1- 7, 1864.—Scout in White and Putnam Counties, Tenn.
2, 1864.—Skirmish near La Grange, Tenn.
Operations about Whitesburg, Ala.
3-Mar. 6, 1864.—The Meridian, Miss., Expedition and co-operating expeditions from Memphis, Tenn., and up the Yazoo River.
6, 1864.—Affair at Bolivar, Tenn.
8, 1864.—Skirmish at Barboursville, Ky.
Skirmish at Ringgold, Ga.
Scout near Maryville, Tenn..
9, 1864.—Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, U. S. Army, supersedes Maj. Gen. John G. Foster in command of the Department of the Ohio.
Skirmish in Hardin County, Tenn.
10, 1864.—Maj. Gen. George Stoneman, U. S. Army, supersedes Brig. Gen. Jacob D. Cox in command of the Twenty-third Army Corps.
13, 1864.—Scout near Knoxville, Tenn.
Skirmish in Fentress County, Tenn.
14, 1864.—Affair near Larkinsville, Ala.
15, 1864.—Skirmish at Laurel Creek, Wayne County, W. Va.
15-Mar. 6, 1864.—Expedition from Vicksburg to Grand Gulf, Miss.
16-Mar. 27, 1864.—Operations about Mobile, Ala.
17, 1864.—Expedition from Island No. 10 to Riley's Landing, Tenn.
17-22, 1864.—Expedition from Motley's Ford, Tenn., to Murphy and vicinity, N. C.
18, 1864.—Skirmish near Maryville, Tenn.
Skirmish at Mifflin, Tenn.
Skirmish at Sevierville, Tenn.
Skirmish at Ringgold, Ga.
18-19, 1864.—Scout from Ooltewah, Tenn., to Burke's and Ellidge's Mills, Ga.
19, 1864.—Operations about Brown's Ferry, Ala.
20, 1864.—Skirmish on the Sevierville Road, near Knoxville, Tenn.
Skirmish at Flat Creek, Tenn.
Skirmish at Strawberry Plains, Tenn.
22, 1864.—Skirmishes at Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, on Indian Creek, Va., and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn.
Skirmish on Calfkiller Creek, Tenn.
Raid on Mayfield, Ky.
22-27, 1864.—Demonstration on Dalton, Ga.
24, 1864.—General Braxton Bragg charged with the conduct of military operations in the Armies of the Confederacy.
25, 1864.—Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, U. S. Army, resumes command of the Eleventh Army Corps.
25-26, 1864.—Scout from Whiteside's, Tenn., to Stevens' and Frick's Gaps, Ga.
26, 1864.—Capture of Washington, Tenn.
Skirmish at Sulphur Springs, Tenn.
27, 1864.—Skirmish in the Sequatchie Valley, Tenn.
28, 1864.—Lieut. Gen. John B. Hood, C. S. Army, assigned to command of Army Corps in Army of Tennessee.
Skirmish at Dukedom, Tenn.

Mar. 2- 3, 1864.—Expedition from Larkin's Landing to Gourd Neck and Guntersville, Ala.
4, 1864.—Skirmish near Murfreesborough, Tenn.
Skirmish at Rodney, Miss.
5, 1864.—Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge, C. S. Army, supersedes Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones in command of the Trans-Alleghany or Western Department of Virginia.
Skirmish at Leet's Tan-yard, Ga.
Skirmish at Panther Springs, Tenn.
6, 1864.—Affair near Island No. 10, Tenn.
Attack on Union Pickets at Columbus, Ky.
7, 1864.—Skirmish at Decatur, Ala.
7- 8, 1864.—Skirmishes at Brownsville, Miss.
8, 1864.—Maj. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, C. S. Army, temporarily in command of the Department of East Tennessee.
Affairs at Courtland and Moulton, Ala.
9, 1864.—Skirmish near Nickajack Gap, Ga.
10, 1864.—Guerrilla raid on Clinton, Ky.
Guerrilla raid on Mayfield, Ky.
11-28, 1864.—Operations about Sparta, Tenn., including skirmishes on Calfkiller Creek and near Beersheba Springs.
12, 1864.—Lieut. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assigned to command of the Armies of the United States; Maj. Gen William T. Sherman to command of the Military Division of the Mississippi; Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson to command of the Department of the Tennessee; and Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck as chief of staff of the army.
Skirmish near Union City, Tenn.
Scout to Nola Chucky Bend, near Morristown, Tenn.
13, 1864.—Skirmish at Cheek's Cross-Roads, Tenn.
Skirmish at Spring Hill, Tenn.
14, 1864.—The Ninth Army Corps ordered to Annapolis, Md.
Skirmish at Bent Creek, Tenn.
Skirmish at Claysville, Ala.
Operations in Jones County, Miss.
15, 1864.—Skirmish at Bull's Gap, Tenn.
Skirmish in Flat Creek Valley, Tenn.
16, 1864.—Brig. Gen. Orlando B. Willcox, U. S. Army, resumes command of the Ninth Army Corps.
Raid on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, near Tullahoma, Tenn.
16-Apr. 14, 1864.—Forrest's expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky.
17, 1864.—Skirmish at Manchester, Tenn.
18, 1864.—Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, assumes command of the Military Division of the Mississippi.
Scout from Island No. 10, Tenn., to New Madrid, Mo.
Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army, resumes command of the Department of East Tennessee.
19, 1864.—Skirmish at Beersheba Springs, Tenn.
Skirmish on the Cumberland River, Ky.
21, 1864.—Skirmish at Reynoldsburg, Tenn.
Skirmish near Moulton, Ala.
22, 1864.—Skirmish at Langley's Plantation, Issaquena County, Miss.
Affair at Fancy Farms, Ky.

Mar. 26, 1864.—Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, assumes command of the Army of the Tennessee.
Skirmish at Clinton, Miss.
27, 1864.—Skirmish at Livingston, Miss.
Affair at Louisville, Tenn.
28, 1864.—Affair at New Hope, Ky.
Riot at Charleston, Coles County, Ill.
Scouts to Caperton's Ferry, Ala.
Skirmish on Obey's River, Tenn.
28–Apr. 16, 1864.—Operations in Eastern Kentucky.
29, 1864.—Affair at Caperton's Ferry, Ala.
29–31, 1864.—Scout from Lookout Valley to Deer Head Cove, Ga.
30, 1864.—Scout from Columbus to Clinton and Moscow, Ky.
Attack on outpost at Snyder's Bluff, Miss.
Scout from Athens, Ala.
Scout from Woodville, Ala.
30–Apr. 1, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Lookout Valley, Tenn., to McLemore's Cove, Ga.
31–Apr. 2, 1864.—Scout from Bridgeport, Ala., to Caperton's Ferry and vicinity.

Apr. 2, 1864.—Skirmish at Cleveland, Tenn.
2–4, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Powder Springs Gap toward Rogersville and Bull's Gap, Tenn.
3, 1864.—Skirmish at Cypress Swamp, Tenn.
Skirmish on Ducktown Road, Ga.
Skirmish at Clinton, Miss.
4, 1864.—The Eleventh and Twelfth Army Corps consolidated as the Twentieth Army Corps, under command of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, U. S. Army.
Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, U. S. Army, assigned to command of the Twenty-third Army Corps.
Brig. Gen. Jacob D. Cox, U. S. Army, supersedes Maj. Gen. George Stoneman in command of the Twenty-third Army Corps.
7, 1864.—Longstreet's army corps ordered from East Tennessee to Virginia.
Skirmish at Woodall's Bridge, Ala.
8, 1864.—Skirmish at Paint Rock Bridge, Ala.
9, 1864.—Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, U. S. Army, assumes command of the Twenty-third Army Corps.
Maj. Gen. George Stoneman, U. S. Army, assigned to command of the Cavalry Corps, Department of the Ohio.
10, 1864.—Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, U. S. Army, supersedes Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger in command of the Fourth Army Corps.
Scout to Dedmon's Trace, Ga.
Skirmish at Cypress Swamp, Tenn.
11, 1864.—Scout from Stevenson to Caperton's Ferry, Ala., and vicinity.
Affair near Kelly's Plantation, Sulphur Springs Road, Ala.
11–13, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Rossville to La Fayette, Ga.
12, 1864.—Maj. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, C. S. Army, assumes command of the Department of East Tennessee.
Skirmish near Florence, Ala.
Skirmish at Pleasant Hill Landing, Tenn.
12–16, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Bridgeport down the Tennessee River to vicinity of Triana, Ala.

Apr. 13, 1864.—Skirmish at Mink Springs, near Cleveland, Tenn.
Skirmishes near Decatur, Ala.
14, 1864.—Skirmish at Taylor's Ridge, Ga.
15, 1864.—Skirmish near Greeneville, Tenn.
16, 1864.—Skirmish at Rheatown, Tenn.
17, 1864.—Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, relieved from command of the Sixteenth Army Corps, and Maj. Gen. C. C. Washburn, U. S. Army, assigned to command of the District of West Tennessee.
Skirmish at Holly Springs, Miss.
Affair at Flint River, Ala.
18, 1864.—Skirmish near Decatur, Ala.
18–20, 1864.—Expedition from Burkesville, Ky., to Obey's River, Tenn.
19, 1864.—Operations against Unionists in Marion County, Ala.
19–20, 1864.—Skirmishes at Waterhouse's Mill and Boiling Springs, Tenn.
19–23, 1864.—Expedition up the Yazoo River, Miss., skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gun-boat Petrel.
21, 1864.—Affair at Harrison's Gap, Ala.
Skirmish at Red Bone, Miss.
22, 1864.—Skirmish on Duck River, Tenn.
23, 1864.—Attack on Union pickets at Nickajack Trace, Ga.
Maj. Gen. Frank P. Blair, jr., U. S. Army, assigned to command of the Seventeenth Army Corps.
24, 1864.—Affair near Decatur, Ala.
24–25, 1864.—Scout from Ringgold to La Fayette, Ga.
25, 1864.—Skirmish near Natchez, Miss.
25–27, 1864.—Expedition from Bull's Gap to Watauga River, Tenn.
27, 1864.—Skirmish near Decatur, Ala.
Attack on Union Pickets on Taylor's Ridge, near Ringgold, Ga.
Skirmish on Troublesome Creek, Ky.
29, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Ringgold toward Tunnel Hill, Ga.
Skirmish in Berry County, Tenn.
30, 1864.—Skirmish at Decatur, Ala.
30–May 9, 1864.—Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to Ripley, Miss., and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn.

## GENERAL REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Cumberland, of operations January 1–April 30.
No. 2.—Itinerary of the Department of the Cumberland, commanded by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, U. S. Army, January 1–April 30.
No. 3.—Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio, of operations January 1–February 9.
No. 4.—Itinerary of the Department of the Ohio, January 1–April 30.

### No. 1.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Cumberland, of operations January 1–April 30.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Chattanooga, Tenn., March* 10, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the operations of my command for the months of January and February, 1864, as follows:

From the 1st until as late as the 20th of January, no movements of any consequence took place. Small scouting parties of both cavalry

and infantry were sent out from time to time to watch the movements of the enemy, but failed to find him in any considerable force in our immediate front.

Information gained through scouts and deserters placed Johnston's army at Dalton and vicinity, occupying the same position he had taken up after the rebel army had fallen back from Mission Ridge, November 26, 1863, and showing no disposition as yet to assume the offensive. Desertions from the enemy still continued numerous, averaging 30 per day, nearly all of whom wished to embrace the terms of the President's amnesty proclamation, which, with Major-General Grant's General Orders, No. 10, of [December 12, 1863,] headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi, had been freely circulated within the rebel lines for some time previous.

On the 20th of January General G. M. Dodge, at Pulaski, Tenn., having ascertained that a force of rebel cavalry, under Roddey, was constructing flat-boats, and hiding them in Little Bear Creek, Spring Creek, and Town Creek, and also that one of Roddey's regiments was foraging on the north side of the Tennessee River, he immediately informed General Grant of these movements of the enemy, who directed me to organize an expedition at once of sufficient force to drive Roddey away from where he was reported to be, and to destroy all boats and material that might in any way be used by the enemy in crossing the Tennessee River. On the 22d information was received that Johnson's and Morrison's brigades of Roddey's command had crossed the Tennessee somewhere between Florence and Clifton, on the 18th, intending to make a raid on our railroads. The guards along the railroads were cautioned against an attack from this party, and measures were immediately taken to drive Roddey across the river. Col. A. O. Miller, Seventy-second Indiana, commanding one expedition, reports from Blue Water (26th), via Pulaski (27th), that he engaged Johnson's brigade near Florence, routed them, killed 15, and wounded quite a number, taking them prisoners; among them 3 commissioned officers. Our loss, 10 wounded.

Brigadier-General Gillem also reports having sent out parties from along the line of the Northwestern Railroad, and their having returned with Lieutenant-Colonel Brewer, 2 captains, 3 lieutenants, and 20 men as prisoners.

A party of guerrillas, numbering about 150 men, attacked Tracy City on the 20th, and, after having three times summoned the garrison to surrender, were handsomely repulsed by our forces.

Col. T. J. Harrison, Thirty-ninth Indiana (mounted infantry), reports from Cedar Grove, 21st instant,* that he had sent an expedition of 200 men to Sparta, to look after the guerrillas in that vicinity. They divided into five parties, concentrating at Sparta. Having passed over the localities of Carter's, Champ Ferguson's, Bledsoe's, and Murray's guerrillas, his (Harrison's) force remained on the Calf-killer five days, and during that time killed 4, wounded 5 or 6, and captured 15, including a captain and lieutenant, 30 horses, and 20 stand of arms.

The Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad having been completed on the 14th instant, and trains running regularly from Nashville to this point, steps were immediately taken to commence repairing the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad. The First Division of the Fourth Corps, Maj. Gen. D. S. Stanley commanding, was ordered on the 24th to take up a position north of Chattanooga, be-

* Probably an error in date. See Harrison's report of January 14, p. 65.

tween Chickamauga Depot and the Hiwassee River, to protect the repairs on the railroad. General Hooker, commanding Eleventh and Twelfth Corps, was ordered to relieve Stanley's division, then stationed on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad between Whiteside's and Bridgeport.

January 28, Maj. Gen. John M. Palmer, commanding Fourteenth Army Corps, with a portion of his command, made a reconnaissance toward the enemy's position on Tunnel Hill. He found him still in force at that point, and the object of the movement having been fully accomplished, General Palmer returned to Chattanooga.

February 7, Col. William B. Stokes, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, reports from Alexandria, Tenn., that, in pursuance to orders, he had recently scouted in the vicinity of Sparta after certain bands of guerrillas infesting that neighborhood, and had succeeded in killing 17 and capturing 12, besides 20 horses and mules. Another force, under Colonel McConnell, succeeded in killing 23 and capturing 40 of the same gang. Colonel Stokes ascertained that, when concentrated, the guerrillas in that section of the country will number 600 men, finely mounted. A scout also brought me information of an attack by Roddey, with a heavy force, upon our troops stationed at Lebanon, De Kalb County, Ala., on the 3d instant. The rebels were repulsed and driven in confusion toward Gadsden, when, learning that Roddey was being re-enforced by Wheeler, our troops withdrew to Sand Mountain, taking possession of saltpeter cave, near Fort Payne.

About the 10th instant, various reports having been received that the enemy under Johnston had weakened his force by sending re-enforcements to Polk, then opposing the advance of our forces under General Sherman; also that he had sent troops to aid Longstreet, in East Tennessee, and it being the desire of the commanding general of the military division effectually to clear out the rebel army directly opposed to our forces at Knoxville, I received orders on the 10th instant to prepare to start for Knoxville on the 13th with such force as could safely be spared from the protection of Chattanooga and its communications, to co-operate with the Army of the Ohio in driving Longstreet from East Tennessee.

The army at this period had been very much weakened by the absence of many regiments, who had gone to their respective States to reorganize as veteran volunteers (a list of which I have the honor to annex hereto), so that in making my preparations I found but a small force available. My transportation was in a very poor condition, notwithstanding all the efforts made to replace the animals lost by starvation during the close investment of Chattanooga by the enemy, and for want of horses scarcely any of the artillery could be moved.

On the 13th the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad was in running order to Loudon. The same day Matthies' brigade, of the Fifteenth Corps (Army of the Tennessee), arrived at Chattanooga from Huntsville, in pursuance to orders from General Grant, and was immediately placed in position at Cleveland, in reserve. On the 14th I received a communication from General Grant, countermanding the orders he had given me on the 10th to proceed with a force from my command to East Tennessee, and stating that from a conversation he had had with General Foster, he (General Grant) was convinced that all that could be accomplished by the proposed campaign would not compensate for the hardships upon our men, and

the disqualifying effects it would have upon them and our war material for a spring campaign. He then went on to say, that as I had been preparing for a move, he deemed it advisable to make one to my immediate front, the object being to gain possession of Dalton and as far south of that as possible.

In accordance with the above instructions, everything being in readiness, Johnson's and Baird's divisions moved out from Chattanooga and occupied Ringgold, Ga., on the 22d, taking up a position on the ridge west of East Chickamauga Creek, with two regiments of mounted infantry (Colonel Boone's Twenty-eighth Kentucky and Colonel Harrison's Thirty-ninth Indiana), on the east side of the creek, the former on the right flank and the latter on the left. Carlin's brigade, of Johnson's division, was stationed about midway between the main line and Taylor's Ridge.

Cruft's division of the Fourth Corps moved on the 22d from Blue Springs, near Cleveland, to Red Clay. Long's brigade of cavalry co-operated with Cruft's column, Long's instructions being to establish communication with Cruft at Red Clay, and then push on as far as possible toward Dalton, on the Spring Place road, observing well the movements of the enemy, so as to give timely warning of any attempt to turn Cruft's left flank, and should the enemy retire, to notify Cruft, so that the latter might advance from Red Clay. During the evening of the 22d General Palmer notified me, from Ringgold, that he had reliable information that Johnston had dispatched Cheatham's and Cleburne's divisions to the relief of Polk in Alabama, who was falling back before General Sherman's column. On the 23d Davis' division of the Fourteenth Corps closed up on the balance of General Palmer's command at Ringgold. Brigadier-General Matthies, commanding a brigade of the Fifteenth Corps stationed at Cleveland in reserve, was directed to send six regiments from his command to re-enforce General Cruft at Red Clay. Colonel Long, having established communication with Cruft the evening before, advanced with his brigade of cavalry along the Spring Place road, driving in the enemy's vedettes when within 4 miles of Dalton, attacking a regiment of rebel infantry which was encamped 1 mile beyond, driving them from their camp and capturing some prisoners. The enemy then formed, and Long withdrew his command to Russell's Mills, 4 miles east of Varnell's Station, on the Cleveland and Dalton Railroad, and encamped there for the night. Cruft, by instructions from General Palmer, took position on the 23d at Lee's house, situated at the cross-roads on the road leading from Red Clay to Tunnel Hill. The command being at this time well concentrated in the vicinity of Ringgold, and having reconnoitered thoroughly on both flanks, General Palmer advanced to feel the enemy in his position at Tunnel Hill, skirmished with him 3 or 4 miles, and, finally, drove him from his position entirely, to a point about 1 mile beyond Tunnel Hill, where he formed line and opened on us with his battery. The main force then withdrew and went into camp about 3 miles northwest of Tunnel Hill, and on the morning of the 24th the line stood as follows: Baird's division south of Taylor's Ridge, near Ringgold, with Cruft's division at Lee's house, Johnson's and Davis' divisions in advance, toward Tunnel Hill, with Boone's and Harrison's regiments of mounted infantry (the former on the left), and Harrison's men leading the advance toward Tunnel Hill, Long's brigade of cavalry at Varnell's Station, on the Cleveland and Dalton Railroad supported by Grose's brigade of

Cruft's division. An advance was made in three columns. After the right and left columns had moved out some distance, the center, with the mounted infantry in advance, pushed forward and met with a fire at long range from a battery of Parrott guns, the enemy's practice being excellent and succeeding in checking the column. The right and left columns were then set in motion and succeeded in flanking the enemy's battery, forcing it to retire. Davis' division of the Fourteenth Corps was started in pursuit, and came up with a heavy force of rebels at Buzzard Roost, a pass through what is called Rocky Face Ridge, which, as its name would suggest, is very precipitous and is a very strong position. Johnson's division of the Fourteenth Corps was advanced to the support of Davis' position on the evening of the 24th; Davis confronting the enemy at Buzzard Roost, supported by Johnson's division posted a short distance west of Tunnel Hill; Cruft on his left; Cruft's headquarters at Lee's house. Baird's division of the Fourteenth Corps started from Tunnel Hill at 3 a. m. on the morning of the 25th to join General Cruft on the road leading from Lee's house to Dalton, with instructions to move, in conjunction with Cruft and Long's cavalry, down the eastern side of Rocky Face Ridge, and endeavor to force the enemy out of his position in the pass by threatening his right and rear, while Davis, supported by Johnson, attacked him in front. In the mean time, Harrison's regiment of mounted infantry (Thirty-ninth Indiana) occupied a gap in Rocky Face Ridge, 6 miles south of Buzzard Roost and nearly opposite to Dalton, his instructions being to hold it as long as possible. Baird and Cruft found the enemy east of the ridge in heavy force and very strongly posted, skirmished heavily with him until night-fall, when both divisions were withdrawn, ascertaining before leaving that the enemy was in much stronger force than was supposed, and that in consequence of late movements on our part he had been obliged to order back to Dalton the re-enforcements he had sent to relieve Polk in Alabama. Cleburne's division (one of those reported to have gone south) attacked Colonel Harrison's mounted infantry command at daylight, on the morning of the 26th, and forced him to retire from the gap. Being convinced that the rebel army at Dalton largely outnumbered the strength of the four divisions I had opposed to it, and the movement against Johnston being a complete success, insomuch as it caused the recalling of re-enforcements sent to oppose General Sherman's expedition against Meridian, I concluded to withdraw my troops to the position they had occupied previous to the reconnaissance.

Baird's division was to fall back on the evening of the 25th to Lee's farm, and on the 26th take position on a line of hills about a mile north of the town of Tunnel Hill, to cover the retirement of Johnson's and Davis' divisions from Buzzard Roost; Davis being ordered to take post at his old camp in front of Rossville, leaving one brigade to support Baird (ordered to take post at Ringgold), until General Baird had sufficient time to establish his picket-lines. Johnson was ordered to take post at Tyner's Station with two brigades of his command, sending one brigade to Graysville, and placing a strong guard in Parker's Gap, northeast of Ringgold, to protect Baird's left flank. Cruft was ordered to take up his old position at Ooltewah, and at Blue Springs (near Cleveland), sending a depot guard to protect his supplies at Cleveland. Long's brigade of cavalry ordered to take post at Cleveland, and keep the left flank well patrolled. Colonel Harrison, commanding Thirty-ninth Indiana Mounted Infantry,

with the Twenty-eighth Kentucky Mounted Infantry, Col. W. P. Boone commanding, was posted at Leet's Tan-yard, with instructions to patrol the country in the direction of La Fayette, and to picket strongly all the roads leading from Leet's in the direction of La Fayette, Resaca, and Dalton. In accordance with these instructions, Johnson withdrew on the night of the 26th to Catoosa Platform, Davis, Baird, and Harrison to Ringgold, and on the 27th they all took up the positions indicated above. Cruft and Long's cavalry also fell back to Catoosa Platform on the night of the 26th, and there took up the positions assigned them.

I have the honor to forward herewith a consolidated report of casualties; also the report* of Col. Eli Long, commanding Second Brigade, Second Division of Cavalry, and a statement of a refugee from Dalton, showing how matters stood at that place during the late reconnaissance; the monthly returns, for January and February, of Col. J. G. Parkhurst, Ninth Michigan Veteran Volunteer Infantry, provost-marshal-general, and that of Lieut. Col. A. P. Porter, chief commissary of subsistence, giving the average daily issue of rations to destitute citizens during the above-named months.

The following regiments, &c., have reorganized as veteran volunteers since the 31st of December, 1863, viz:

Infantry: Second Minnesota, Fifty-eighth New York, Sixty-eighth New York, Forty-fifth New York, Tenth Illinois, Fifty-ninth Illinois, Thirty-sixth Illinois, Fifty-first Illinois, Forty-fourth Illinois, Forty-second Illinois, Eighty-second Ohio, Fifty-fifth Ohio, Twenty-first Ohio, Seventeenth Ohio, Seventy-fourth Ohio, Twenty-sixth Ohio, Forty-first Ohio, Nineteenth Ohio, Thirty-first Ohio, Thirty-third Ohio, Fifty-first Ohio, Sixty-fourth Ohio, Fifteenth Ohio, Forty-ninth Ohio, Thirteenth Ohio, Seventy-first Ohio, Sixty-fifth Ohio, Fortieth Ohio, Fifth Connecticut, Thirtieth Indiana, Forty-fourth Indiana, Thirty-first Indiana, Forty-second Indiana, Twenty-second Indiana, Thirty-third Indiana, Fifty-seventh Indiana, Fifty-first Indiana, Fifty-eighth Indiana, Fortieth Indiana, Seventy-third Pennsylvania, One hundred and ninth Pennsylvania, Forty-sixth Pennsylvania, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, Twenty-first Kentucky, Fourth Kentucky, Eighteenth Kentucky, Twenty-third Kentucky, Third Maryland, Thirteenth Wisconsin, Thirteenth Michigan, Fifteenth Missouri, Eighth Kansas.

Mounted infantry: Seventeenth Indiana, Fourteenth Michigan.

Cavalry: Fourth Kentucky, Sixth Kentucky, Third Kentucky, Seventh Pennsylvania, Fifth Iowa, First Ohio, Fourth Ohio, Third Ohio.

Artillery: Fifth Wisconsin Battery; Second Illinois, H Battery; Second Illinois, I Battery; First Ohio, C Battery; First Ohio, F Battery; First Ohio, B Battery; First Ohio, G Battery; Twelfth Ohio Independent Battery; Thirteenth New York Independent Battery; First Michigan, E Battery; Thirteenth Indiana Battery.

Detachments: Second Massachusetts, 5 companies; Thirty-seventh Indiana, Company I; Thirty-seventh Indiana, 47 men; Tenth Indiana, 56 men; Twenty-seventh Indiana, 6 companies; Fifteenth Indiana, 67 men; Fifth Ohio, 7 companies; Seventh Ohio, Company F; Twenty-fourth Ohio, Company D; Eighteenth Ohio, 62 men; Sixty-ninth Ohio, 41 men; Twenty-seventh Illinois, Company I; Twenty-seventh Illinois, 90 men; Twenty-second Illinois, 34 men; Twenty-first

*See p. 472.

Illinois, Company C; Tenth Maine, Company D; First New York Artillery, Battery I, 64 men, Battery M, 64 men; First Illinois Artillery, Battery C, 40 men; Fourth U. S. Artillery, Battery F, 48 men; Fifth U. S. Artillery, Battery K, 52 men; Ninth Ohio Independent Battery, 41 men; First Michigan Engineers, 85 men; First Missouri Engineers, 84 men.

Recapitulation: Fifty-two regiments of infantry, 2 regiments of mounted infantry, 8 regiments of cavalry, 11 batteries of artillery, and 24 detachments.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. H. THOMAS,
*Major-General, U. S. Volunteers, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. L. THOMAS,
*Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
OFFICE CHIEF COMMISSARY OF SUBSISTENCE,
*Chattanooga, Tenn., March* 8, 1864.

Capt. S. C. KELLOGG,
*A. D. C., Hdqrs. Dept. of the Cumberland, Chattanooga:*

CAPTAIN: In reply to your letter of to-day, I have the honor to inform you that the average daily issues of subsistence stores to destitute citizens for the month of January, 1864, was $686\frac{14}{31}$ rations, and for the month of February, 1864, the average daily issue was $2{,}944\frac{7}{29}$ rations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. P. PORTER,
*Lieut. Col. and Chief C. S., Dept. of the Cumberland.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

*Report of prisoners of war and deserters received and disposed of, and oaths administered to citizens, during the month of January,* 1864, *at Chattanooga, Tenn.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Prisoners of war captured and disposed of: *a* | |
| Officers | 44 |
| Men | 591 |
| Aggregate | 635 |
| Deserters received and disposed of: | |
| By provost-marshal-general | 594 |
| By Captain Goodwin, assistant provost-marshal-general | 414 |
| Aggregate | 1,008 |
| Oaths administered to citizens: *b* | |
| Allegiance | 45 |
| Amnesty | 213 |
| Aggregate | 258 |

Respectfully submitted.

J. G. PARKHURST,
*Col. Ninth Michigan Vol. Inf., Provost-Marshal-General.*

*a* The report of prisoners of war is taken from the register in Captain Goodwin's office.

*b* The report of oaths administered is taken from the records in this office.

[Inclosure No. 3.]

*Report of prisoners of war and deserters received and disposed of, oaths administered to citizens, and sales and issues of rations to citizens, during the month of February*, 1864.

| | Station. | | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Chattanooga. | Nashville. | |
| Prisoners of war: | | | |
| Captured: | | | |
| Officers | 21 | 38 | 59 |
| Men | 182 | 421 | 603 |
| Aggregate | 203 | 459 | 662 |
| Disposed of: | | | |
| Officers | ..... | 59 | 59 |
| Men | ..... | 603 | 603 |
| Aggregate | ..... | 662 | 662 |
| Deserters: | | | |
| Received | 821 | 76 | 897 |
| Paroled on oath | 821 | 76 | 897 |
| Oaths administered to citizens: | | | |
| Allegiance | 543 | ..... | 543 |
| Amnesty | 263 | ..... | 263 |
| Aggregate | 806 | ..... | 806 |
| Rations: | | | |
| Sales: | | | |
| Families | 506 | ..... | 506 |
| Persons | 2,901 | ..... | 2,901 |
| Issues: | | | |
| Families | 1,032 | ..... | 1,032 |
| Persons | 5,809 | ..... | 5,809 |
| Total: | | | |
| Families | 1,538 | ..... | 1,538 |
| Persons | 8,710 | ..... | 8,710 |

Respectfully submitted.

J. G. PARKHURST,
*Col. Ninth Michigan Inf. Vols., Provost-Marshal-General.*

[Inclosure No. 4.]

JOHN W. GLADDEN'S STATEMENT.

Says he left Dalton on Saturday last. He states that the rebel losses in the battles we had at Buzzard Roost and on the east of Rocky Face Ridge were from 50 to 60 killed and 150 wounded. He stated that he was himself upon the field and also heard it from officers; their force in all was about 30,000 men, and that their forces, which had previously started for Mobile, had all returned, and that they would not now give furloughs upon any consideration; also that the rebels had plenty of ammunition. Soldiers stating freely if they were driven away from Dalton, large numbers of them would throw down their arms and fight no more.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES LAMON.

[Inclosure No. 5.]

*Killed and wounded at the battle of Buzzard Roost, near Dalton, Ga., on February 24 and 25, 1864.*

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| Fourth Army Corps | ..... | 5 | 1 | 51 | 57 |
| Fourteenth Army Corps | ..... | 9 | 6 | 185 | 200 |
| Cavalry | 1 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 32 |
| Total* | 1 | 16 | 8 | 264 | 289 |

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Chattanooga, Tenn., April 5, 1864.*

MAJOR: I have the honor to report as follows the operations of my command during the month of March:

On the 1st the positions of the different divisions remained nearly as mentioned in my last report, viz: Johnson's division, of the Fourteenth Army Corps (Palmer's), at Tyner's Station, except King's brigade, which was at Graysville; Davis' division, Fourteenth Corps, at Shallow Ford, near Rossville; Baird's division, Fourteenth Corps, at Ringgold; Stanley's division, Fourth Corps (Granger's), at Blue Springs, near Cleveland; the balance of Granger's command being still on duty with the Army of the Ohio. Long's brigade of cavalry was at or near Calhoun, picketing toward Columbus and Benton. The Thirty-ninth Indiana Mounted Infantry, Col. T. J. Harrison commanding, was stationed at Leet's farm, on the road leading from Gordon's Mills to Ringgold and La Fayette, covering Baird's right flank. The Eleventh and Twelfth Corps, Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker commanding, were guarding the railroad from Nashville to this point.

March 1 General Matthies and his command were ordered to rejoin the Fifteenth Corps at Huntsville, their services being no longer required; Long's brigade of cavalry was ordered to take position at Cleveland; Colonel Innes, with eight companies of the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, and two regiments of colored troops, ordered to commence the construction of block-houses and other defenses along the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, the First Missouri Engineers and Mechanics being detailed for similar duty along the Nashville and Decatur Railroad.

On the 3d General Gordon Granger, commanding Fourth Army Corps, was directed to send one brigade of his command to Calhoun, with instructions to picket the approaches from Dalton, at Columbus and Benton; Wagner's brigade, of Sheridan's division, accordingly took position at that place; Col. A. P. Campbell, commanding First Brigade, First Division of Cavalry, having reported the arrival of his command at Calhoun, was ordered on the 4th to proceed to Cleveland, and remain at that place for the present. Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger sent the following information from Loudon, on the 5th:

Longstreet's cavalry is said to be making its way to join Johnston, via Marshall, Quallatown, and Murphy, thence to Benton. It was expected at Murphy to-night.

* For loss from February 22 to 27, see p. 421.

On the 5th Col. Daniel McCook, commanding Third Brigade, Davis' division, Fourteenth Army Corps, was ordered to move his brigade to Lee and Gordon's Mills, on Chickamauga Creek ; Col. T. J. Harrison, commanding Thirty-ninth Indiana Mounted Infantry, stationed at Leet's Tan-yard, was driven from his position by a heavy force of rebel cavalry, which, as was subsequently ascertained through a deserter, amounted to two brigades. They attempted to gain Harrison's rear, but failing to do so, retired by the same way they came.

Information was received from a reliable source that Johnston was being re-enforced by infantry and Roddey's cavalry ; Col. Edward McCook, commanding First Division of Cavalry, was instructed on the 8th to place his command in camp at Cleveland, and endeavor to recruit his animals as much as possible, sending out scouting parties along our front.

This division had been serving with the Army of the Ohio since the withdrawal of Longstreet from before Knoxville, and with long marches, together with the difficulty of procuring forage, the horses and transportation of the command were in poor condition. On the 8th Colonel Harrison was directed to remove his command from Lee and Gordon's Mills to a position on the road leading from the mills to Ringgold, throwing out pickets to Leet's Tan-yard and to Wood's Gap. Col. W. P. Boone, commanding Twenty-eighth Kentucky Mounted Infantry, ordered to move his command to Lee and Gordon's Mills, and report to Col. Daniel McCook, commanding the brigade at that place.

On the 9th Colonel Harrison reconnoitered the gaps in Taylor's Ridge and found the enemy in larger force than they were previous to the demonstration of the 5th. On the 13th Long's brigade of cavalry left Cleveland for Ringgold. The Western and Atlantic Railroad was in running order to Graysville the same day. During the evening Colonel McCook reported, by signal, from Lee and Gordon's Mills, that Colonel Boone had just returned from beyond La Fayette, and that he found no rebels at the gaps.

On the 16th the following information was received direct from Dalton, and from a reliable source :

Rebel force 45,000, comprising Hood's four divisions ; Stevenson, on the left, southeast of Dalton, 6,000 ; Breckinridge, on the left center, 4,000 ; Stewart on the right center and Hindman on the right. Hardee's four divisions ; Cleburne's on the left, east of Dalton, 5,000 strong ; Cheatham's on the right, and two others on the railroad. Roddey's cavalry was near Varnell's Station, numbering 2,000 men ; Wheeler was in front with 11,000 men ; total cavalry, 12,000 to 14,000.

March 18 the balance of Johnson's division, Fourteenth Corps, reached Graysville from Tyner's Station and went into camp at that place.

On the 20th the Western and Atlantic Railroad was in running order to Ringgold. About this time information was sent me from Dalton confirmatory of the report received from General Gordon Granger, on the 5th, to the effect that a part of Longstreet's cavalry was re-enforcing Johnston, said to be Martin's division. Brig. Gen. G. M. Dodge, of the Army of the Tennessee, reported from Athens on the 23d, by telegraph, that he had pushed down both sides of the Tennessee River and found the enemy very strong on the south side, and that he had no doubt they were preparing for a raid. He could not tell whether it was the whole of Forrest's force or not. Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard, commanding the Second Cavalry Division, at Huntsville, was instructed to move his force to the support

of General Dodge. In a second dispatch General Dodge said his troops struck the enemy 3 miles south of Moulton, and after a sharp fight fell back with a loss of 4 killed and 10 wounded, the enemy following for a distance of 14 miles. A number of the enemy were killed and wounded, and our force took several prisoners, among them a captain of artillery belonging to Forrest's command. Information from various sources went to show a concentration of a heavy force of cavalry in Northern Alabama, parties of rebels showing themselves in the vicinity of Caperton's Ferry on the south side of the Tennessee, and extending nearly as far west as Tuscumbia.

Col. William B. Stokes, commanding Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, reports on the 29th from Sparta, Tenn., the operations of his command against the guerrillas in that vicinity, having had several engagements with them in the space of a fortnight, in which he succeeded in completely routing and scattering them, killing and wounding a number, among them two of their most active leaders, Bledsoe and Champ Ferguson.

The organization of colored troops within my command is progressing rapidly and satisfactorily. There are now on duty six fully organized regiments, with an aggregate force of 4,000 men, and three more regiments of infantry organizing, besides a battery of light artillery.

The following named regiments, &c., have reorganized as veteran volunteers during the month of March, 1864:

Infantry: Tenth Michigan, Thirty-sixth Ohio, Sixty-first Ohio, Sixty-ninth Ohio, Sixtieth Illinois, Thirty-eighth Illinois, Twenty-first Illinois.

Mounted infantry: Twenty-eighth Kentucky.

Cavalry: Second Kentucky.

Artillery: Battery G, First Missouri, Eighth Wisconsin Battery.

Detachments: Third Wisconsin Battery; Seventy-ninth Pennsylvania Infantry; three companies Thirty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry; five companies Thirtieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry; five companies Eighth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry; detachment Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry; Companies F and K, Fortieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Total: Seven regiments of infantry, one regiment of mounted infantry, one regiment of cavalry, two batteries of artillery, and seven detachments of all arms.

There had returned to the army from furlough up to March 31 thirty-three regiments of infantry, five of cavalry, and ten batteries of artillery, with 5,429 recruits, a list of which is annexed, marked A.*

I have the honor to forward, herewith, the monthly return for March of prisoners, &c., from Col. J. G. Parkhurst, provost-marshal-general, and a statement of the number of rations issued to destitute citizens during March, from Lieut. Col. A. P. Porter, chief commissary of subsistence.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. H. THOMAS,
*Major-General, U. S. Volunteers, Commanding.*

Maj. R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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* Omitted.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

*Report of prisoners of war and deserters received and disposed of, oaths administered to citizens, and sales and issues of rations to citizens during the month of March,* 1864.

| | Station. | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Chattanooga. | Nashville. | Total. |
| Prisoners of war: | | | |
| Captured: | | | |
| Officers | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Men | 34 | 100 | 134 |
| Aggregate | 38 | 107 | 145 |
| Disposed of: | | | |
| Officers | .... | 11 | 11 |
| Men | ..... | 134 | 134 |
| Aggregate | ..... | 145 | 145 |
| Deserters: | | | |
| Received | 612 | 41 | 653 |
| Paroled on oath | 612 | 41 | 653 |
| Oaths administered to citizens: | | | |
| Allegiance | 531 | 6,320 | 6,851 |
| Amnesty | 394 | ..... | 394 |
| Aggregate | 925 | 6,320 | 7,245 |
| Rations: | | | |
| Sales: | | | |
| Families | 601 | ..... | 601 |
| Persons | 3,729 | .... | 3,729 |
| Issues: | | | |
| Families | 1,561 | ..... | 1,561 |
| Persons | 9,958 | ..... | 9,958 |
| Total: | | | |
| Families | 2,162 | ..... | 2,162 |
| Persons | 13,687 | ..... | 13,687 |

Respectfully submitted.

J. G. PARKHURST,

*Col. Ninth Michigan Vol. Inf. and Provost-Marshal-General.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

*Statement of the number of rations issued to destitute citizens, in the Department of the Cumberland, during the month of March,* 1864.

| | Rations. |
|---|---|
| Nashville, Tenn | 40,000 |
| Chattanooga, Tenn. (issued half-rations) | 106,138 |
| Stevenson, Ala | 5,330 |
| Murfreesborough, Tenn | 6,912 |
| Clarksville, Tenn | 412 |
| Calhoun, Tenn | 1,906 |
| Gallatin, Tenn. (none issued.) | |
| First Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland | 340 |
| Lookout Valley, Tenn | 14,314 |
| Whiteside's, Tenn | 8,854 |
| Shellmound, Tenn | 5,469 |
| Bridgeport, Ala | 5,726 |
| Fourth Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland | 6,100 |

*Statement of the number of rations issued to destitute citizens, &c.*—Continued.

| | Rations. |
|---|---|
| Twelfth Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland | 130 |
| Tyner's Station, Tenn | 18,500 |
| Graysville, Ga | 400 |
| Rossville, Ga | 11,302 |
| Ringgold, Ga | 1,206 |
| Total | 233,039 |

J. C. READ,
*Captain and Acting Chief Commissary of Subsistence.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Office Chief Com. Sub., Chattanooga, Tenn., April* 12, 1864.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Chattanooga, Tenn., May* 2, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report the operations of my command for the month of April as follows, viz:

On the 2d instant a force of rebels, said to be 1,500 strong, made a demonstration in the direction of Cleveland and Charleston, E. Tenn., approaching to within 8 miles of Cleveland, when they divided into parties; one going out in the direction of Ducktown, through the mountains, the other remaining and falling back toward Dalton on the appearance of a force of our cavalry sent out from Cleveland in command of Colonel La Grange, of the First Wisconsin. A scout, who arrived at Cleveland on the 3d, reported that the above movement on the part of the enemy was for the purpose of covering the approach of a force from Longstreet's army which was on its way to re-enforce Johnston by way of Murphy, N. C. This was afterward ascertained to be Martin's division of cavalry.

On the 5th the following changes were ordered in the organization of the Army of the Cumberland: The Eleventh and Twelfth Army Corps to be consolidated and known as the Twentieth Army Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker; Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger relieved of the command of the Fourth Army Corps and Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard (formerly commanding the Eleventh Army Corps) in his stead.

Maj. Gen. P. H. Sheridan having been relieved from the command of the Second Division, Fourth Army Corps, Maj. Gen. John Newton was assigned to that command, and ordered to report to Major-General Howard.

On the 10th Brig. Gen. J. W. Geary, commanding Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, stationed along the railroad from Bridgeport to Stevenson, was ordered to organize an expedition, consisting of two regiments, with ten days' rations, and embark on the steamer Chickamauga, taking one piece of artillery to protect the boat, and then proceed down the Tennessee River as far as Decatur, Ala., examining carefully the south bank of the river, and all streams emptying into it from the south side; destroying all boats of whatever kind he might find, and notifying the inhabitants that no more boats would be permitted to be used or built, except with the permission of the commanding officer. On returning, General Geary was to examine the north bank in the same manner, and destroy all

boats he might find, except such as Major-General McPherson, commanding Army of the Tennessee, should need, and the boats at Decatur or Larkin's Ferry, which will be the only points at which communication across the river will be permitted, notifying the inhabitants of the same.

April 11 the cavalry command of the army was reorganized, forming four divisions, of three brigades each, averaging three regiments to a brigade.

Brigadier-General Geary returned to Bridgeport on the 15th, reporting the result of his expedition down the Tennessee to be that he proceeded as far as Triana, Ala., where he came upon the enemy in heavy force on both sides of the river ; that deeming it advisable to proceed no farther, General Geary returned, having destroyed a considerable number of boats both going and coming.

Information gained from deserters and others estimate the strength of the rebel army at Dalton to be 45,000 infantry and about 12,000 cavalry. The enemy has two brigades of cavalry at Tunnel Hill, watching our movements at Ringgold and the gaps through Taylor's Ridge, and one brigade on the road leading from Dalton to Cleveland, picketing the approaches from that direction.

The Fourth Army Corps, Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard commanding, having been relieved from duty with the Army of the Ohio, was concentrated at Cleveland on the 22d, and camped at that place and vicinity. The First Division of Cavalry, Col. Edward M. McCook commanding, was still at that point picketing and patrolling the country.

Frequent skirmishes have taken place during the month all along our front, between our own and the enemy's cavalry. In quite a sharp little affair near Leet's farm, on the 23d, we lost 5 killed and 10 wounded, besides 1 officer and 12 men taken prisoners ; the enemy having had an overwhelming force, succeeded in gaining our rear. A scout, who left Dalton on the 16th, reports that two divisions from Hardee's corps were to be sent to re-enforce Lee in Virginia ; this force to be replaced by Loring's division from Mississippi. This man passed through the enemy's defenses at Buzzard Roost, and reports them very strong.

On the 29th a reconnaissance was made toward Tunnel Hill from Ringgold, composed of 300 cavalry under Kilpatrick and Van Derveer's brigade of infantry. They advanced to within a short distance of Tunnel Hill, driving the enemy before them until they developed a largely superior force, when the expedition returned to Ringgold. About this time preparations were commenced for the proposed advance on Dalton in May. The Second Division of Cavalry, Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard commanding, started from Columbia, Tenn., under instructions to report to General McPherson for further orders.

The Twentieth Army Corps, Major-General Hooker commanding, was directed to concentrate in Lookout Valley. General Rousseau's division, of that command, to garrison the block-houses and other points along the line of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad ; the balance of the corps to be placed in marching order immediately.

The Fourteenth Corps, Maj. Gen. J. M. Palmer commanding, was to concentrate at Ringgold, Ga., as soon as possible ; and the Fourth Corps was in readiness to move from Cleveland as soon as ordered.

Garrard's division of cavalry being under orders to report to Gen-

eral McPherson for duty, McCook's division (First) was to move on Howard's left, and Kilpatrick's (Third) to operate with Palmer's corps from Ringgold.

Reliable information was received on the 30th from Atlanta (27th) that heavy re-enforcements to Johnston had been passing that point since the 20th, said to be from Mobile, estimated at 10,000. The same person reports from Rome (28th) that part of Polk's corps was there, numbering about 5,000, and still more arriving. Two trains with artillery, fourteen pieces, had arrived that day. Martin's cavalry division was also there, about 4,000 men; also, part of Polk's corps had reached Dalton the same day (28th).

A reliable scout, sent to Dalton from Chattanooga, reaching Dalton on the 25th, returned on the 30th, reporting that the whole of Hood's corps had been moved to the front from its old position in the immediate vicinity of Dalton. He went to Atlanta on the 27th, but learned nothing of importance there. At Resaca he saw the camps of Armstrong's division of cavalry, and at Rome he learned that Loring's and another division had arrived from Mississippi, thus corroborating information received from a different source.

During the month there have returned to this army from furlough, as veteran volunteers, eighteen regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, and four batteries of artillery, with an aggregate of 2,697 recruits gained while absent.

The quartermaster's department has been particularly active constructing store-houses, &c., at Chattanooga. I have the honor to inclose herewith lists of steamers and other transportation employed by the quartermaster's department on the Upper Tennessee, and of the military store-houses at Chattanooga and Bridgeport; also the monthly report of the transactions of the provost-marshal's department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. H. THOMAS,
*Major-General, U. S. Volunteers, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. R. M. SAWYER,
*A. A. G., Military Division of the Mississippi.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

*List of military store-houses constructed at Bridgeport, Ala., up to May* 1, 1864.

| No. | Location. | Dimensions. | For what used. | Condition. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Feet.* | | |
| 1 | At upper levee | 450 by 30 | Transfer store-house | Completed. |
| 1 | do | 315 by 30 | do | Do. |
| 1 | On line of railroad to upper landing. | 100 by 30 | Store-house | Do. |
| 1 | do | 100 by 30 | do | Do. |
| 1 | do | 300 by 90 | do | Do. |
| 1 | do | 300 by 90 | do | Do. |
| 1 | | 256 by 30 | Ordnance store-house | Do. |
| 1 | | 65 by 30 | Depot building | Do. |

L. C. EASTON,
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief Quartermaster.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Office Chief Quartermaster, Ringgold, Ga., May* 6, 1864.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

*List of military store-houses built and in process of construction at Chattanooga, Tenn., May* 1, 1864.

| No. | Location. | Dimensions. | By whom used. | Condition. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Feet.* | | |
| 1 | On river front of Market street... | 150 by 40 | Capt. C. K. Smith, assistant quartermaster. | Completed May 1, '64. |
| 1 | .....do..... | 300 by 50 | ....do..... | Do. |
| 2 | .....do..... | 300 by 50 | Capt. A. D. Baker, commissary of subsistence. | Do. |
| 1 | On river near Market street..... | 50 by 20 | Capt. H. M. Smith, assistant quartermaster. | Do. |
| 1 | In rear of depot quartermaster's office. | 204 by 40 | .....do..... | Do. |
| 1 | On Market street..... | 250 by 50 | ..... do ..... | Do. |
| 1 | .... .do..... | 115 by 50 | Buildings for engineer department | One-fourth completed. |
| 1 | In rear of market-house ..... | 300 by 50 | Buildings for commissary department. | Do. |
| 1 | On Market street..... | 460 by 50 | Buildings for ordnance department. | Do. |
| 1 | On river-bank (brick magazine) .. | ..... | .....do..... | One-third completed. |
| 1 | In rear of depot quartermaster's office. | 154 by 40 | Buildings for quartermaster's department. | Foundation being laid. |

L. C. EASTON,
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief Quartermaster.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Office Chief Quartermaster, Ringgold, Ga., May* 6, 1864.

[Inclosure No. 3.]

LIST OF U. S. STEAMERS PLYING ON THE UPPER TENNESSEE RIVER, MAY 1, 1864.

Chickamauga, built by quartermaster's department at Bridgeport, Ala.

Chattanooga, built by quartermaster's department at Bridgeport, Ala.

Kingston, built by quartermaster's department at Bridgeport, Ala.

Lookout, built by quartermaster's department at Bridgeport, Ala.

Missionary, built by quartermaster's department at Bridgeport, Ala.

Paint Rock, captured at Chattanooga.

Gun-boat A, built by quartermaster's department at Bridgeport, Ala.

Gun-boat B, built by quartermaster's department at Bridgeport, Ala.

Fourteen barges, built by quartermaster's department at Bridgeport, Ala.

Three more boats have been built at Bridgeport, and are now receiving their engines and joiner-work.

L. C. EASTON,
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief Quartermaster.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Chief Quartermaster's Office, Ringgold, Ga., May* 6, 1864.

[Inclosure No. 4.]

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
OFFICE PROVOST-MARSHAL GENERAL,
*Chattanooga, Tenn., May 3, 1864.*

Capt. S. C. KELLOGG,
*Aide-de-Camp, Department of the Cumberland:*

CAPTAIN: In compliance with your instructions of the 1st instant, I have the honor to submit the following report of prisoners of war, rebel deserters, and oaths administered during the month of April, 1864:

| By whom. | Prisoners of war | | | Rebel deserters. | | | Oaths. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Aggregate. | Officers. | Men. | Aggregate. | Amnesty. | Allegiance. | Aggregate. |
| By Colonel Parkhurst, provost-marshal-general. | ..... | ..... | ..... | 9 | 319 | 328 | 38 | ..... | 38 |
| By Capt. R. M. Goodwin, assistant provost-marshal-general. | 30 | 237 | 267 | 3 | 32 | 35 | ..... | 865 | 865 |
| Total ..... | 30 | 237 | 267 | 12 | 351 | 365 | 38 | 865 | 903 |

Respectfully submitted.

H. M. DUFFIELD,
*Lieut. and Acting Assistant Provost-Marshal-General,*
For Colonel PARKHURST,
*Provost-Marshal-General.*

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## No. 2.

*Itinerary of the Army of the Cumberland, commanded by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, U. S. Army, January 1–April 30.**

### FOURTH ARMY CORPS.†

#### JANUARY.

January 14 and 15, under orders from department commander, the Second and Third Divisions broke up camp near Blain's Cross-Roads and moved, with all trains, toward Dandridge, Tenn., for forage and subsistence, Third Division in advance; crossed Holston River on railroad bridge at Strawberry Plains, and by ford and ferry at ———— ; head of column reached Dandridge at night.

January 16, encamped at Dandridge early in the morning.‡

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* From monthly returns.

† Commanded by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger from October 10, 1863, to April 10, 1864; Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard to July 27, 1864.

‡ The return of First Brigade, Second Division, reports: "Immediately after arriving had a skirmish with Longstreet's cavalry, driving the enemy back from his position; casualties, 1 corporal and 2 privates slightly wounded."

January 17, slight skirmish with the enemy; under orders fell back to Strawberry Plains at night; Third Division in the rear.

January 18, encamped at Flat Creek, Tenn., and beyond Holston River, in vicinity of Strawberry Plains.

January 20, ordered and moved to Sevierville via Knoxville.

January 21, passed through Knoxville and went into camp south of the Holston.

January 23, two brigades of Second Division ordered to Loudon and one brigade to Kingston; two brigades of Third Division ordered to Maryville and one brigade to Lenoir's;* moved on same day.

January 25, in position with headquarters at Loudon.

January 26 to 28, First Division brigade camps at Bridgeport, Shellmound, and Whiteside's broken up and division moved toward Chattanooga.

January 29 and 30, in position near Tyner's Station.

### FEBRUARY.

#### *First Division.*

Broke up camp at Tyner's Station and moved First Brigade to Blue Springs on the 5th; Second Brigade toward Ooltewah on the 3d, thence to Blue Springs on the 6th; Third Brigade toward Charleston on the 2d, thence to Cleveland on the 4th, toward Ooltewah on the 5th, and to Blue Springs on the 6th. The First Brigade at Blue Springs during month guarding East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad; Second and Third Brigades engaging in reconnaissance toward Dalton, Ga.; on the 22d skirmishing with enemy, and on the 28th returning to camp. Brigadier-General Cruft in command of division from 13th until close of the month, Major-General Stanley being temporarily absent.

#### *Second Division.*

The First Brigade broke up camp at Kingston, and was moved to Loudon under department orders of the 31st ultimo. Division encamped at Loudon during the month, procuring forage and subsistence, guarding depots and railroads and establishing ferries. Four regiments from Third Brigade and section of artillery moved to Sweet Water on the 17th and returned on 22d. During absence of Major-General Sheridan Brigadier-General Wagner in command from the 24th instant.

#### *Third Division.*

Under orders from department commander to concentrate at Knoxville, was moved on the 15th, and reported at Knoxville to Major-General Schofield on 16th. Moved to Flat Creek on 24th, to Strawberry Plains on 27th, and to New Market on 28th. Brigadier-General Wood returning from absence resumed command on the 12th. Headquarters of the corps during the month at Loudon, Tenn.

*The return of Third Division reports that the Forty-fourth Indiana, Eighth Kansas, Twenty-third Kentucky, and Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Forty-first, and Forty-ninth Ohio Regiments were sent home during the month on veteran furlough.

MARCH.

*First Division.*

March 12, headquarters moved to Blue Springs; First Brigade stationed at Ooltewah and Second and Third Brigades at Blue Springs during the month, doing the ordinary camp duties.*

*Second Division.*

At Loudon, Tenn., assisting in the construction of railroad bridge over Tennessee River, guarding stores, &c.

*Third Division.*

Made no movement of importance until the 19th, when it marched to Strawberry Plains, and leaving the First Brigade to garrison that post, proceeded to Rutledge, Tenn.

March 24, moved to Powder Spring Gap and opened communication with Cumberland Gap, and several expeditions were made to ascertain the position and movements of the enemy. Headquarters of the corps at Loudon, Tenn., during the month.

APRIL.

First Division has not changed position since last return; Second Division marched from Loudon to Cleveland, Tenn., on the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th instant; Third Division marched from Strawberry Plains about the 1st instant, and by easy marches proceeded to its present position [near McDonald's]. Headquarters moved on the 10th instant.

## ELEVENTH ARMY CORPS.†

JANUARY.

*Second Division, commanded by Col. Adolphus Buschbeck, Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry.*

The division has remained in camp during the past month; has, besides usual guard details, furnished large working parties on military roads and railroad. The following regiments re-enlisted as veteran volunteers and left the command to go to their respective States on recruiting service: January 4, the Seventy-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with 29 officers and 477 men. January 11, the Fifty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with 27 officers and 423 men; the Seventy-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, with 15 officers and 164 men. From these regiments there remained here the following numbers of men, who either were debarred the privilege of re-enlisting by the limited term of their previous service or were unwilling to re-enlist: From the Seventy-third Pennsylvania Volunteers,

*The Twenty-first, Thirty-first, and Thirty-eighth Illinois Regiments on veteran furlough.

†Commanded by Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard from April 2, 1863, to April 18, 1864, when it was consolidated with the Twelfth Corps to form the Twentieth Corps.

185 men, transferred to the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers; from the Fifty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 118 men, and from the Seventy-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 16 men, in all 134 men who were transferred to the One hundred and thirty-sixth New York Volunteers.

*Third Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Carl Schurz.*

Five of the regiments of this division, having re-enlisted as veterans, left for home, as follows: The Fifty-eighth New York Volunteers and the Seventy-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers on January 8; the Eighty-second Ohio Volunteers on January 10, and the Sixty-eighth New York Volunteers on January 12.

January 25, at 7 a. m., this division marched from Lookout Valley and assumed the following stations: The Third Brigade, with the Twenty-sixth Wisconsin Volunteers of the Second Brigade, were posted at Whiteside's, Tenn.; the remainder of the Second Brigade at Shellmound, Tenn., and the First Brigade at a point opposite Bridgeport, Ala. Division headquarters were established at Shellmound, Tenn., where they have since remained. The division serves as a guard for the U. S. military railroad along this route, and is engaged in guard, picket, patrol, and scouting duty.

FEBRUARY.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. William T. Ward.*

February 22, the First Brigade, First Division, was ordered by headquarters Department of the Cumberland to march to Bridgeport, Ala., reporting to Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard, commanding Eleventh Corps, for assignment to station.

February 23, marched from Nashville.

February 29, reached Tullahoma. The Second Brigade, on the removal of the First Brigade from Nashville, was ordered by Major-General Rousseau, commanding District of Nashville, to take post as follows: The Thirty-third Indiana, Nashville, Tenn.; Eighty-fifth Indiana, La Vergne and Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad; Twenty-second Wisconsin, Nashville, Tenn., and Nineteenth Michigan, McMinnville, Tenn.

Division headquarters moved, and is now (March 15) with the First Brigade in Lookout Valley.

*Second Division, commanded by Col. Adolphus Buschbeck, Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry.*

The division remains still in camp as at date of last return. No important military operations have taken place; time employed in drilling and promoting the efficiency of the command.

*First Brigade, Third Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Hector Tyndale.*

This brigade has been lying during the entire month at a point on the south bank of the Tennessee River opposite Bridgeport, Ala. It has been engaged during a great part of the month in rendering

the place secure from attack by constructing works, slashing timber, and obstructing various roads and means of ingress by which an enemy might approach. The Forty-fifth Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry proceeded on furlough as a veteran organization on February 2, and is still absent.

MARCH.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. William T. Ward.*

March 2, division headquarters, with First Brigade, left Tullahoma.

March 10, reached Wauhatchie, Tenn., where they were encamped by order of Major-General Howard, commanding Eleventh Army Corps; Second Brigade stationary.

March 25, the Thirty-third Indiana went home as veterans. The remainder of their men (252) were temporarily assigned to the Eighty-fifth Indiana.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Adolph von Steinwehr.*

The division remains in camp in Lookout Valley; position unchanged. The Fifty-fifth and Seventy-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry have returned from furlough.

March 30, the First Brigade of this division made a reconnaissance to McLemore's Cove. Nothing important was obtained, and no engagement.

*Third Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Hector Tyndale.*

During the month the division has been performing guard duty along the U. S. military railroad from Bridgeport to Wauhatchie, sending out continually scouting parties in a southerly direction. The Fifty-eighth and Sixty-eighth New York Veteran Volunteers, the Eighty-second Ohio Veteran Volunteers, and the Thirteenth New York Veteran Battery have returned from their furloughs. The Sixty-first Ohio Volunteers, having re-enlisted as veterans, have gone to Ohio. Battery K, First Michigan Artillery, has been detached from the division, and Battery I, of same regiment, has joined the division from Nashville.

March 24, the organization of the division was changed to two brigades by virtue of Special Orders, No. 60, headquarters Eleventh Corps.

TWELFTH ARMY CORPS.*

JANUARY.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams.*

The division remained in camp in same position as during the month of December, guarding the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad between Wartrace and Stevenson. All the old regiments of this division have re-enlisted. Two regiments have gone home in a

*Commanded by Maj. Gen. Henry W. Slocum from September 13, 1863, to April 18, 1864, when it was consolidated with the Eleventh Corps to form the Twentieth Corps.

body during the month and three more are ready to follow. Pursuant to orders from the War Department one regiment, the One hundred and forty-fifth New York Volunteers, has been disbanded, the commissioned officers and surplus non-commissioned officers mustered out, and the privates transferred to other New York regiments in the division. The work upon fortifications along the line of the railroad has been carried on during the entire month.

January 20, the garrison at Tracy City was attacked by guerrillas in numbers greatly superior to those of the garrison, and after a sharp fight of about two hours the enemy were repulsed. Our casualities were 2, viz: One captain severely wounded and 1 enlisted man mortally wounded.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. John W. Geary.*

The division remained in camp in Lookout Valley until the 4th instant, when it marched to Bridgeport, Ala., two brigades encamping at that place and the Third Brigade being sent to Stevenson. The strength present for duty of the command has been much reduced by the re-enlistment of veterans and their departure on furlough. During the month the following organizations left the command, having re-enlisted: First Brigade—five companies One hundred and forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, January 3; seven companies Fifth Ohio Volunteers, January 27; Second Brigade—One hundred and ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, January 20; Third Brigade—Seventy-eighth and One hundred and second New York Volunteers, January 1; Artillery, Independent Battery E, Pennsylvania Volunteers, January 6. The remaining troops of the First and Second Brigades are doing garrison duty, &c., at the post at Bridgeport, and the Third Brigade at Stevenson.

FEBRUARY.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams.*

This division remains on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, and owing to the reduction of effective strength, in consequence of the return home of veteran regiments on furlough, it has been relieved by the Second Division from that part of the line from Stevenson to Tantalon.

During the month the re-enlisted portions of Forty-sixth Pennsylvania, Third Maryland, and Twenty-seventh Indiana Infantry Regiments, and of Battery F, Fourth United States; M, First New York, and Ninth Ohio, have left on furlough; the Third Regiment Wisconsin Veteran Volunteers and Second Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers have returned. The tax levied upon citizens of Lincoln County for the support of the families of men murdered in December has been collected this month. On the return of the expedition, while on the march, 2 privates of the One hundred and fiftieth New York Volunteer Infantry became separated from the column and were killed by guerrillas. An expedition was also sent into another portion of Lincoln County to break up a band of troublesome guerrillas, and they succeeded in capturing a number of the outlaws, who are now undergoing trial before a military commission.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. John W. Geary.*

The division lay encamped on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad; the First and Second Brigades and the artillery at Bridgeport, and Third Brigade at Stevenson, Ala., guarding the railroad and performing provost duty until the 11th instant.

February 11, the line was extended, and four companies of the Third Brigade were detached and sent to Anderson, Tenn., to guard that post, and four companies of the First Brigade were detached and sent to Caperton's Ferry, on Tennessee River, between Stevenson and Bridgeport, Ala.

February 20, information was received that the rebel Morgan intended making a raid on this post, with a view of destroying the railroad bridge over the Tennessee or tearing up the track of the railroad at some adjacent point, for the purpose of interrupting communication with Chattanooga. Every preparation was made to repel attack, and on the 21st the One hundred and forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, under Lieut. Col. A. Pardee, were sent on reconnaissance to Jasper, Tenn., to ascertain the whereabouts of the enemy, if any. They returned on the 22d, and reported no indication of the presence of an enemy.

February 22, a telegram was received from Major-General Hooker, stating that Cleburne's division was then at La Fayette, Ga., intending to attack the railroad opposite Bridgeport or between that place and Chattanooga. Guns were put in position, the earth-works strengthened, and the command fully prepared to defeat any design of destroying the bridges or railroad in the occupation of the division, but the enemy did not appear. A line of pickets extends from a point on the right bank of the Tennessee River, 3 miles above Bridgeport, to a point 1½ miles south of Anderson, Tenn., guarding the fords on the river and patrolling the railroad, one company being at Widow's Creek bridge, on railroad. Division headquarters at Bridgeport, Ala.

MARCH.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams.*

The division remains on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, as per last report, performing about the same duty as heretofore. The veteran regiments are returning as their furloughs expire. About two-thirds of the rails on the McMinnville branch railroad have been taken up during the month and brought to Tullahoma without any casualties. One attack only has been made on the railroad, and that very soon repulsed without loss upon our side. Some negroes in the railroad employ were run off, and some of them, it is reported, were murdered. The attack was by tearing up the track half way between the post at Estill Springs and the trestle bridge at Poor Man's Creek. A train was thrown off and the cars set on fire, but three only were burned, a portion of the guard at Estill Springs arriving in time to save the others.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. John W. Geary.*

The division is encamped as reported on February return, viz First and Second Brigades and artillery at Bridgeport, Ala., and

Third Brigade at Stevenson, Ala., guarding Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad and its bridges between Bridgeport, Ala., and Anderson, Tenn. Four companies of First Brigade are at Caperton's Ferry, on Tennessee River, and one company at Widow's Creek bridge, on railroad.

March 17, the Twenty-ninth Ohio and One hundred and forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, of First Brigade, under the general commanding the division, made a reconnaissance to Trenton, Ga. No considerable bodies of the enemy were ascertained to be in the vicinity. Small parties were reported in Will's Valley, and 6 rebel soldiers of Cleburne's division were captured.

March 18, expedition returned.

March 31, an expedition, consisting of the Fifth Ohio and Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania, of the First Brigade, under Colonel Candy, proceeded down the Tennessee for the purpose of scouring the country and capturing guerrillas reported in the neighborhood. The column has not yet returned, and no intelligence has been received from it up to this date.

During the month the following veteran organizations returned to the command from furlough: Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, First Brigade, March 8; One hundred and forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, First Brigade, March 6; Fifth Ohio Volunteers, First Brigade, March 26; One hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, Second Brigade, March 9; One hundred and second New York Volunteers, Third Brigade, March 12; Independent Battery E, Pennsylvania Volunteers, March 8. The Twenty-ninth and One hundred and ninth Pennsylvania, of Second Brigade, and one company of Seventh Ohio, of First Brigade, are still absent. Battery K, Fifth U. S. Artillery (4 commissioned officers and 92 enlisted men), was relieved from duty with division March 29 by Special Orders, No. 16, headquarters chief of artillery, Department of the Cumberland, March 12, 1864, and Battery B, First Ohio Volunteer Artillery (4 commissioned officers and 184 enlisted men), reported for duty March 28 in pursuance of same order. Division headquarters are at Bridgeport, Ala.

## FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS.*

### JANUARY.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Richard W. Johnson.*

Two regiments—Seventy-eighth Pennsylvania and Twenty-first Wisconsin Volunteers—of the Third Brigade have remained in camp on Lookout Mountain during the month.

January 21, the remainder of the command changed camp from the right of the line to the vicinity of Fort Wood. The following regiments, having re-enlisted as veterans, were furloughed during the month to their respective States: The Twenty-first, Thirty-third, and Seventy-fourth Ohio, and the Thirty-eighth and Forty-second Indiana.

The division has been engaged during the month on grand guard and fatigue duty.

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* Commanded by Maj. Gen. John M. Palmer from October 28, 1863, to August , 1864.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis.*

Camp of the division located near Rossville, Ga.

January 26, a reconnaissance was ordered to the front. The division moved out to Ringgold, where it remained until the 28th, when it marched back to camp.*

*Second Brigade, Third Division, commanded by Col. Gustave Kammerling, Ninth Ohio Infantry.*

During the month this brigade has laid in camp, doing heavy picket and fatigue duty. The One hundred and first Indiana is stationed at Rossville, picketing the gap there.

January 26, the Thirty-fifth and One hundred and fifth Ohio and Seventy-fifth Indiana, under command of Lieut. Col. William O'Brien, Seventy-fifth Indiana, marched to Harrison, returning the 29th.

FEBRUARY.

The First and Third Divisions were encamped at Chattanooga until February 22; Second Division at Rossville, Ga.

February 22, the First and Third Divisions marched to Ringgold, Ga.

February 23, the First Division pushed forward to Tunnel Hill, with slight skirmishing; Second Division moved up to Ringgold, Ga.

February 24, whole corps moved upon the enemy (excepting one brigade of Second Division left to guard gap at Ringgold) and drove the advance of the enemy, with some heavy skirmishing, back to Buzzard Roost Gap.

February 25 and 26, skirmishing continued.

February 27, the troops retired, First Division to Tyner's Station, Second Division to Rossville, and Third Division to Ringgold, which positions they now hold. Loss during the reconnaissance was slight, considering the amount of work done and strength of the enemy.

MARCH.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Richard W. Johnson.*

The First and Third Brigades of the division, together with division headquarters, remained at Tyner's Station, Tenn., until March 19; then marched to Graysville, Ga., situated on Western and Atlantic Railroad, 18 miles southeast of Chattanooga, where Second Brigade has been encamped during the entire month. The Seventy-eighth Pennsylvania and Twenty-first Wisconsin Regiments remained detached on Lookout Mountain during the month; also Second Battalion, Fifteenth U. S. Infantry, and Fifteenth Kentucky Infantry at Chattanooga. Battery H, Fifth U. S. Artillery, was relieved from duty with division March 12, Special Orders, No. 16, current series, chief of artillery, Department of the Cumberland. Remaining two batteries—Battery A, First Michigan Artillery, and Battery C, First Illinois Artillery—joined division from Chatta-

* The Tenth and Sixteenth Illinois on veteran furlough.

nooga March 30. Three regiments of division occupy outposts at Parker's Gap, 4 miles southeast of Graysville; remainder of division been engaged in grand guard, fatigue-duty, target practice, and drill.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis.*

This division remained in camp during the month, the First and Second Brigades at McAfee's Church, and Third Brigade at Lee and Gordon's Mills. The troops of the three brigades available for duty of regiments present were reviewed on the 31st by Major-General Thomas.

*First Brigade, Third Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. John B. Turchin.*

Brigade remained in camp at Ringgold, Ga., during the month.

March 10, the Thirty-sixth Ohio was ordered from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Marietta, Ohio, on furlough as veteran volunteers.

March 12, the Seventeenth Ohio Veteran Volunteers rejoined the brigade from furlough. The Thirty-first Ohio Veteran Volunteers are on the road between Nashville and Chattanooga, marching to join the brigade.

APRIL.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Richard W. Johnson.*

The division has been encamped during the entire month at Graysville, Ga., brigades alternately performing picket and outpost duty. The Seventy-eighth Pennsylvania Infantry and Twenty-first Wisconsin Infantry have been stationed on Lookout Mountain, near Chattanooga, Tenn., during the month.

April 8, the Second Battalion, Fifteenth U. S. Infantry, detached and hitherto forming part of garrison at Chattanooga, rejoined the division.

During the month the Thirty-third and Seventy-fourth Ohio and Forty-second Indiana Infantry rejoined division from veteran furlough. The Sixty-ninth Ohio Infantry absent during entire month on veteran furlough.

Battery A, First Michigan Artillery, was relieved from duty with division, and Battery I, First Ohio Artillery, assigned to division by special field orders, headquarters chief of artillery, Department of the Cumberland, April, 1864.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis.*

The First and Second Brigades at camp near Rossville, and Third Brigade at Lee and Gordon's Mills, Ga., during the month.

*Second Brigade, Third Division, commanded by Col. Ferdinand Van Derveer, Thirty-fifth Ohio Infantry.*

The brigade has been lying in camp at Ringgold Gap all this month, picketing the east front. No marches or scouts of any importance have been made, except on Friday, the 29th, when four regiments of

the brigade, under the brigade commander, supported the advance and covered the withdrawal of a cavalry reconnaissance under Brigadier-General Kilpatrick.

## TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS.

### APRIL.

*Twentieth Army Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.*

This corps was organized from the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps by Special Field Orders, No. 105, headquarters Department of the Cumberland, April 14, 1864,* as follows:

The First Division, Brig. Gen. A. S. Williams commanding, by the consolidation of the First Division, Twelfth Army Corps, and First Brigade, Third Division, Eleventh Army Corps, with the Forty-fifth New York Volunteers.

The Second Division, Brig. Gen. John W. Geary commanding, by the consolidation of the Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps, and the First Brigade, Second Division, Eleventh Army Corps, with the One hundred and nineteenth New York Volunteers.

The Third Division, Maj. Gen. Daniel Butterfield commanding, by the consolidation of the First Division and the Second Brigade, Second Division, Eleventh Army Corps, with the Twenty-sixth Wisconsin and Twentieth Connecticut.

The Fifty-eighth and Sixty-eighth New York Volunteers and Seventy-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers, of the Eleventh Corps, transferred to the Fourth Division, which has, by Special Field Orders, No. 129, headquarters Department of the Cumberland, been detached from the corps and ordered to report direct to department headquarters. No reports have been received from it.

The First Division until the 28th was stationed along the line of communications from Murfreesborough to Tantalon. The Third Brigade between Bridgeport and Shellmound, with detachments at Tracy City and Shelbyville. At that date command marched to the front.

The Second Division, First and Third Brigades, stationed on railroad between Tantalon and Bridgeport; Second Brigade in Lookout Valley.

The Third Division, First and Third Brigades, in Lookout Valley; the Second Brigade en route from Nashville to join the division.

April 12, pursuant to orders from department headquarters, General Geary, commanding [Second] Division, with the Seventh and Sixty-sixth Ohio, detachments of the Twenty-eighth and One hundred and forty-seventh Pennsylvania, and a section of Battery E, Pennsylvania Volunteers, proceeded down the Tennessee on the steam-boat Chickamauga, for the purpose of examining the river-banks from Bridgeport to Decatur and destroying all boats not needed for military purposes. The expedition met with no material opposition until approaching Guntersville, where a considerable body of rebel cavalry was found drawn up. A detachment of infantry was landed and advanced to meet the enemy, and our artillery opened on him from the boat, when he fled into the town, from which he

* In accordance with General Orders, No. 144, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, April 4, 1864. Commanded by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker to July 27, 1864.

was soon dislodged, the town falling into our possession. A rebel mail was also captured there by us. The expedition next proceeded down to Whitesburg, gaining information of the enemy's whereabouts, and thence down toward Triana, where on the north side a force fully equal to ours was discovered drawn up in line, and on the south side was seen a much larger force with a piece of artillery. Information had been received at the bluffs, where we destroyed a large boat, that the enemy expected a battery of artillery at Triana. Owing to the insufficient character of the defenses of the boat, the machinery being utterly unprotected, and the fact that numbers of lives would be lost without accomplishing any material object if we attempted to pass through the narrows in opposition to the enemy, it was resolved to head upstream and regain Guntersville as soon as possible, the expedition having got within 14 miles of Decatur.

April 13, the expedition reached Whitesburg on its return in the evening and examined the north bank of the river on the passage.

April 15, reached Bridgeport about 2 a. m., having destroyed 47 boats and captured 4 prisoners, with but 3 casualties on our side. Important information was also gleaned of movements of the enemy on both banks of the river.

## CAVALRY.*

### JANUARY.

*First Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry.*

January 1 and 2, in camp at Talbott's Station, Tenn.

January 3, the division moved back to Mossy Creek 3 miles, and remained in camp until the 14th. Weather very cold and snowy. Officers and men suffering severely for lack of tents or other shelter and of clothing. During this time foraging and scouting parties sent to the front captured over 50 of the enemy and killed and wounded several in the different skirmishes that took place.

January 14, marched in rear of Garrard's and Wolford's divisions of cavalry (Army of Ohio) to Dandridge; 10 miles.

January 15, remained in camp.

January 16, at 12 m. marched on Morristown road, the enemy's cavalry falling back to near Kimbrough's Cross-Roads, where their infantry was discovered in strong force. The division returned, found Wolford being pressed back on the right of Morristown road, and, forming upon his left, drove the enemy back some distance. Our casualties, 2 killed and 6 wounded; enemy's loss not known.

January 17, at 1 p. m. the enemy advanced with heavy columns of infantry, attacking picket-post of Second Brigade, on the right of Morristown road. The brigade formed on the picket-line, and, despite the several attempts of the enemy, made with overwhelming numbers of infantry, to gain possession of the wooded eminence, they were repulsed, and after the third attempt ceased. Their colors fell three times in one advance. Their solid, heavy columns suffered severely from the deliberate, well-directed fire of our men. This was the first occasion upon which the division had met the enemy's infantry, and here they successfully repulsed the flower of Long-

*Commanded by Brig. Gen. Washington L. Elliott.

street's rebel corps. Our casualties were 48 killed, wounded, and missing. The division captured 21 prisoners and many dead and wounded. The enemy subsequently acknowledged to citizens of Dandridge a loss of 340 killed, wounded, and missing. The First Brigade was not engaged. Our line was maintained until 11 p. m., when under orders from General Elliott, chief of cavalry, Department of the Cumberland, division fell back over the Mossy Creek and New Market roads, bringing off all our killed, wounded, transportation, &c. Division marched to McKinney's Ford, Holston River, crossed and proceeded via Strawberry Plains to Flat Creek, arriving 2 p. m. of January 18; 20 miles.

January 19, marched via Knoxville, recrossed Holston River at Knoxville and 12 miles on Sevierville road; 24 miles.

January 20, marched to Cannon's house on Pigeon River, 3 miles from Sevierville; 14 miles.

January 21, marched by Flat Creek road to Jim Evans' Ford, on French Broad River; 15 miles. Picketed French Broad at different fords. Enemy's cavalry on north bank of the river.

January 22, scouts captured 19 prisoners and 4 wagons, part of forage party of the enemy, near Wilsonville.

January 23, moved to Muddy Creek; 3 miles. Detachments of the Second Brigade captured 15 prisoners.

January 24, camped at Muddy Creek; detachment of the First Brigade made a reconnaissance to the mouth of Nola Chucky River. French Broad and Nola Chucky Rivers fordable at almost every point.

January 25, under orders from General Sturgis, chief of cavalry, Department of the Ohio, moved back via Fair Garden and Sevierville to Cannon's house, on the Pigeon River.

January 26, at 5 p. m. enemy discovered advancing on Fair Garden road. Division was advanced beyond Sevierville to west of Middle Fork of Pigeon River, enemy opening on our line with artillery.

January 27, at daylight Campbell's (First) brigade was advanced across Middle Fork of Pigeon River at Hodsden's house, driving the enemy from their strong position west of Big East Pigeon to the east bank of the latter fork, Colonel La Grange's (Second) brigade being sent to the left on Stafford's road, which intersects Fair Garden road about 2 miles from Fair Garden. Enemy's new position was a strong one in the timber, and with their largely superior numbers (being two divisions, Morgan's and Armstrong's, under command of General Martin, chief of cavalry) they made stubborn resistance to the advance of the division, but they were steadily driven with great loss, and at the intersection of the Stafford and Fair Garden roads detachments of Second and Fourth Indiana Cavalry, led by Colonel La Grange, completed the rout that had already begun by a dashing saber charge, capturing two 3-inch rifled Rodman guns, the battle-flag of General Morgan, his body-servant, and a large number of prisoners, and sabered several of the cannoneers and supports. The regimental colors of the Thirty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry and a silk American flag in the possession of the rebels were also recaptured. Morgan's rebel division was thoroughly broken, routed, and dispersed. Division captured 112 prisoners, 11 being commissioned officers, 2 of the latter being regimental commanders. The enemy left a large number of dead and wounded in our hands, and their loss must have been over 350. Our casualties, 28 killed and wounded; no troops but those of the division were engaged.

January 28, advanced with Garrard's and Wolford's divisions to Swann's Island Ford, French Broad River; Wolford being engaged, La Grange's (Second) brigade was advanced to his support. Our casualties, 2 killed and 4 wounded. Under orders from General Sturgis returned to Hodsden's house, Middle Fork of Pigeon River.

January 29, marched to Wear's Cove, Tenn.; 16 miles.

January 30, to this station; 12 miles. Third Brigade detached during the month in Department of the Cumberland.

*Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Abram O. Miller, Seventy-second Indiana Infantry (mounted).*

Division headquarters remained in camp at Pulaski, Tenn., from the 1st to the 12th. During this time the following regiments of the division re-enlisted as veteran volunteers, and returned home on furlough: Fifth Iowa and Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, of the First Brigade; First, Third, and Fourth Ohio Cavalry, of the Second Brigade, and Seventeenth Indiana Volunteers, of the Third Brigade. The Fourth U. S. Cavalry, First Brigade, and Seventy-second Indiana Volunteers, Third Brigade, were detached with General Smith, chief of cavalry, Division of the Mississippi. Divison headquarters, with part of the Third Brigade and Chicago Board of Trade Battery, moved on the 12th to Huntsville, Ala., and remained there during the month. Detachments of regiments belonging to the different brigades of the division were actively engaged during the latter part of the month on scouting expeditions into East Tennessee and Northern Georgia. Headquarters Second Brigade remained in camp at Calhoun, Tenn. Colonel Long, commanding post, engaged in building a pontoon bridge and constructing two ferries across the Hiwassee River. Scouting parties were frequently sent out, capturing many prisoners and picking up numbers of deserters.

January 25, part of the Third Brigade had a sharp engagment with a brigade of the enemy, under General Johnson, near Florence, Ala., driving him across the Tennessee River with considerable loss.

*First Brigade, Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Robert H. G. Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry.*

January 1, the brigade was at Pulaski, Tenn., but was soon dispersed by the regiments going home on veteran furloughs, &c.

January 5, the Fourth U. S. Cavalry moved, in compliance with orders from Brig. Gen. W. S. Smith, from Pulaski, and arrived at Corinth, Miss., January 10.

January 11, it left Corinth by railroad and reached La Grange, Tenn., the next day.

January 12, the headquarters of the brigade started for Huntsville, Ala., where it arrived on the 14th, and remained for the rest of the month.

January 26, the Fourth U. S. Cavalry left La Grange and marched to Collierville, Tenn., where it remained until February 1. The Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry left Pulaski, Tenn., on the 2d, having re-enlisted as veteran volunteers, and proceeded to Nashville, where it remained until the 18th.

On the 25th it arrived at Harrisburg, Pa., via Cairo, Ill.

On the 27th was furloughed for thirty days.

The Fourth Michigan Cavalry, the detachment under Major Robbins, on courier duty between Harrison and Calhoun, Tenn., on the

4th reported to Colonel Long, at Calhoun, and marched with his brigade to Cleveland and Charleston. From the 12th to the 21st it was on picket at Columbus; from the 21st to the 31st on duty at Calhoun. The detachment under Major Gray left Pulaski on the 9th and on the 19th arrived at Rossville, Ga.; 160 miles.

During the remainder of the month this detachment was employed in scouting the country in connection with the Twenty-eighth Kentucky Regiment, all being under the command of Colonel Boone, Twenty-eighth Kentucky. It was engaged in one or two slight skirmishes.

The Fifth Iowa Cavalry left Pulaski, Tenn., on the 7th, having re-enlisted. Moved to Nashville, where it remained for the balance of the month, being delayed in getting the veteran bounties. The Third Indiana Cavalry was stationed for the most of the month at Maryville, near Knoxville, E. Tenn. It has made no report of its marches or actions.

*Second Brigade, Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Eli Long, Fourth Ohio Cavalry.*

January 1, this brigade in camp at Calhoun, E. Tenn., Colonel Long commanding the post.

January 3, Captain Beebe reported with part of the Tenth Wisconsin Battery for temporary duty with the brigade.

January 6, the Fourth Michigan Cavalry returned to Calhoun from courier duty at Cleveland, the courier-line to Chattanooga having been withdrawn and a line was established to Cotton Port, connecting with Washington, on the north side of the Tennessee River. The Seventeenth Indiana Mounted Infantry was relieved from duty with this brigade on the 10th, and marched for Nashville on the 11th.

About the 15th instant Colonel Eggleston, First Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, started for Nashville with the veterans of the detachments of the First, Third, and Fourth Ohio, who had been left at Woodville, Ala., in November. Remained at Calhoun the rest of the month. During the month two ferries were constructed and a pontoon bridge built across the Hiwassee connecting Calhoun with Charleston. A number of prisoners were taken by scouting parties and the pickets, and many deserters came into the post.

*Third Brigade, Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Smith D. Atkins, Ninety-Second Illinois Infantry (mounted).*

January 12, left Pulaski, and on the 14th established brigade headquarters at Huntsville, Ala.

January 25, engaged a brigade of the enemy under General Johnson near Florence, Ala., and drove him to the south side of the Tennessee River; loss, 9 wounded.

January 30, established brigade headquarters at Triana, Ala.

FEBRUARY.

*First Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry.*

February 8, encamped at Maryville, E. Tenn.

February 9, marched to Motley's Ford, Little Tennessee River; 8 miles.

February 17, a scouting party of 250 men was sent [under command of Major Paine, First Wisconsin Cavalry] to Cherokee County, N. C., and returned on the 22d, having captured 33 prisoners, including 5 commissioned officers; also 15 mules and 4 horses. This scout was accomplished without any loss on our part.

February 23, the First Brigade marched 20 miles to Scruggs' farm, 4 miles from Madisonville, E. Tenn.

February 27, marched from Motley's Ford and reached Madisonville on the same day, where the command remained in camp during the remainder of the month, sending scouting parties toward the enemy.

*Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard.*

During the month headquarters division remained at Huntsville, Ala.

February 10, Brig. Gen. K. Garrard assumed command in compliance with Special Field Orders, No. 41, headquarters Department of the Cumberland. The Chicago Board of Trade Battery during the month proceeded to Nashville, Tenn., obtained a new armament, and reported back to division headquarters with new horses, equipments, and six 3-inch Parrott guns. The headquarters Second Brigade were at Calhoun, Tenn. Brigade was employed as couriers, scouts, and pickets, and were during the month engaged in several skirmishes with the enemy. The Third Brigade was stationed at or near Mooresville, Ala., and was employed in collecting forage, scouting the country, and in picketing the Tennessee River.

*First Brigade, Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Robert H. G. Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry.*

During the month brigade headquarters remained at Huntsville, Ala.

The Fourth U. S. Cavalry, being at Collierville, Tenn., with the expedition under the command of Brig. Gen. W. S. Smith, remained until the 11th, then marched to New Albany, where it arrived February 14.

February 16, marched and arrived at Okolona, Miss., on the 19th, and West Point on the 20th, where it met and defeated a large force of the enemy under Forrest.

Returned to Okolona February 22, where it had another severe engagement with Forrest's forces. The rebels being too powerful, the command retreated that day, and arrived at Memphis on the 26th, where it remained during the rest of the month. The Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry was on furlough in Pennsylvania, having reenlisted as veteran volunteers. The Fourth Michigan Cavalry being at Ooltewah, Tenn., was during the month engaged on several scouts, having skirmished at Tunnel Hill, near Buzzard Roost; at Red Clay, near Cleveland; at Cleveland, at Dirt Town, and other places, acting with the Twenty-eighth Kentucky Mounted Infantry, under Colonel Boone. The Fifth Iowa Cavalry at home on furlough, having reenlisted as veterans. The Third Indiana has made no report of events. They have been operating in East Tennessee, near Knoxville.

*Second Brigade, Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Eli Long, Fourth Ohio Cavalry.*

The brigade stationed at Calhoun, E. Tenn.

February 4, 600 men arrived and joined the brigade, being a part of the Ninety-eighth Illinois Mounted Infantry and the non-veterans of the First, Third, and Fourth Ohio, from Woodville, Ala., and on the 11th the veterans of the portion of the First, Third, and Fourth Ohio which had been with Colonel Long started for Ohio. Brigadier-General Elliott, chief of cavalry, visited the post on the 15th and inspected the command the following day.

February 22, pursuant to orders by telegraph from Major-General Thomas, Colonel Long marched with 600 men—350 mounted infantry and 250 cavalry—as part of a general reconnaissance toward the enemy's lines at Dalton.

February 23, marched out the Spring Place road. The advance guard drove in the enemy's pickets when within 4 miles of Dalton. The column was then pushed on rapidly and attacked a regiment of rebel infantry, which was encamped within 3 miles of Dalton, driving them from their camp and taking 12 prisoners. Colonel Long then withdrew to Russell's Mills, 4 miles east of Varnell's Station.

February 24, by direction of Major-General Palmer, commanding, the column again moved toward Dalton and met a force of rebels 5 miles from that place. These were driven in, the advance squadron following to within 3 miles of Dalton. Subsequently Colonel Grose, with the First Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, having come up, Colonel Long dismounted his command and advanced toward the enemy, driving his skirmishers back 1 mile to their camp. Here the command was attacked by a brigade of rebel infantry. Colonel Long now fell back, night coming on, to Colonel Grose's lines.

February 25, after advancing half a mile, the enemy was found and engaged. The command was now strengthened by 100 men of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, and at night moved back on the Dalton and Varnell's Station road some 3 miles, and on the 26th retired with the infantry to Catoosa Platform. Casualties during the five days: Ninety-eighth Illinois Mounted Infantry, 9 wounded and 2 missing. Detachments of the First, Third, and Fourth Ohio Cavalry—Capt. R. B. Wood, Third Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, and 2 privates killed and 8 wounded; Fourth Michigan Cavalry, 3 wounded. Twenty-three prisoners were taken. Other rebel casualties not ascertained. Command returned to Calhoun February 27.

MARCH.

*First Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry.*

The division remained at Madisonville, sending out scouting parties toward the enemy.

March 5, the First Brigade marched under orders to Calhoun.

March 8, orders were received to proceed to Calhoun.

March 9, marched 18 miles; encamped at Mr. Lartin's, 3 miles south of Athens; the dismounted men suffered much from marching.

March 10, marched 11 miles to Calhoun, where the division stopped, according to orders received from General Granger. There being

no good camping-grounds at Calhoun, crossed the Hiwassee River and encamped at Charleston. Col. A. P. Campbell, commanding First Brigade, assumed command of division, Colonel McCook being on leave of absence.

March 11, received orders from General Elliott to proceed to Cleveland.

March 12, marched 12 miles to that place. Nothing of importance has occurred since. Good camping-grounds were selected, and good attention paid to the recruiting of the horses; the most unserviceable were, by order of cavalry commander, sent to Chattanooga, Tenn., for the purpose of being recruited. One or two alarms have taken place, which amounted to nothing. The enemy's pickets within 14 or 18 miles.

*Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard.*

Headquarters division remained at Huntsville, Ala., with portions of the different brigades.

The First Brigade headquarters was stationed at that point until the 14th instant; by instructions moved to Nashville, Tenn., the greater portion of that command being in that vicinity; remained there balance of month. The Fourth Michigan Cavalry, of this brigade, was actively engaged with success in scouting the country in East Tennessee. The Fourth U. S. Cavalry, from Memphis, Tenn., and Seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers returning from veteran furlough, arrived at Nashville, Tenn., going into camp at that place on or about the 30th. The Fifth Iowa Cavalry still absent on furlough as veteran volunteers.

The headquarters of Second Brigade remained the greater part of the month at Ringgold, Ga., with Col. R. H. G. Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, in command—while Colonel Long, Fourth Ohio Cavalry, was absent on veteran furlough—picketing the front of the Army of the Cumberland toward Dalton, the Third Brigade still remaining in camp at Mooresville, Ala.; nothing of interest occurred.

APRIL.

*First Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry.*

The division encamped at Cleveland during the whole month. Scouting parties were sent out toward Spring Place and some prisoners taken; nothing of importance occurred.

*Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard.*

Division headquarters moved on the 4th instant from Huntsville, Ala., with three regiments Third Brigade and detachments First and Second Brigades, to Columbia, Tenn., for the purpose of concentrating at that point the command preparatory to its reorganization and refitting for the summer campaign. Upon the reorganiza-

tion of the cavalry, the Fifth Iowa and Third Indiana Cavalry (First Brigade), Second Kentucky and Tenth Ohio Cavalry (Second Brigade), and Ninety-second Illinois Volunteers (Third Brigade) were transferred from this division to the Third Division. Colonels Minty, Long, and Wilder reported with complete commands (with the exception of the First Ohio, Second Brigade, at Nashville, Tenn.) on the 25th instant at Columbia, Tenn.

From the 25th to the 30th the division was active in completing arrangements for operations in the field. Under orders the command, with First and Third Brigades, complete in arms, horses, and equipments, moved for Chattanooga, Tenn., on the 30th. The Second Brigade remained at Columbia, Tenn., awaiting arms and horses.

*Third Cavalry Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick.*

This division was organized April, 1864. Colonel Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, assumed command temporarily by order of chief of cavalry, and commanded until April 17, when he was relieved by Col. E. H. Murray, Third Kentucky Cavalry. Colonel Murray was relieved by General Kilpatrick by Special Field Orders, No. 16, headquarters Department of the Cumberland. The portion of the division reported had one engagement, as follows:

April 29, General Kilpatrick, with 500 men, moved through Hooker's Gap, Ga., at this place, and drove the enemy's pickets until they met a large force, estimated at 2,000; then attacked and drove them for some distance. After fighting them vigorously for some time he fell back; was charged by the enemy by overwhelming numbers, faced about and repulsed them handsomely. Fell back to camp. Some casualties on both sides.

ENGINEER TROOPS.

*Engineer Brigade, commanded by Col. Timothy R. Stanley, Eighteenth Ohio Infantry.*

January 18, this brigade was organized under the command of Col. T. R. Stanley, Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Since that time the entire command has been actively engaged. The Eighteenth Ohio engaged in the construction of two steam ferry-boats; have charge of the swinging ferry, and cutting and rafting timber for store-houses. The Thirteenth Michigan Volunteers, stationed on Chickamauga Creek, engaged in cutting and rafting saw-logs. The Twenty-first Michigan Volunteers engaged in cutting logs and timber for building store-rooms. The Twenty-second Michigan Volunteers cutting and rafting logs and delivering them at the mills.

February 29, the brigade has been actively engaged during the past month in cutting, rafting, and sawing logs, hewing and framing timber for depot buildings, raising and inclosing the same, building flat and steam boats, and various other duties connected with the engineer department.

No. 3.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio, of operations January 1 to February 9.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
*Knoxville, Tenn., January 29, 1864.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of this army during the past month:

After the engagement at Mossy Creek on the 29th ultimo, the cavalry and one brigade of infantry occupied that position and the region in front for several miles, subsisting as much as possible on the country, until the 12th instant, when it moved toward Dandridge.

The Fourth, Ninth, and Twenty-third Corps remained in their positions near Blain's Cross-Roads.

As soon as the bridge at Strawberry Plains was completed, the Twenty-third and Fourth Corps crossed and marched toward Dandridge. The Ninth Corps remained at Strawberry Plains.

The necessity for this move arose from the entire exhaustion of all grain and forage for a circuit of 20 miles around the position of the army.

The orders for the infantry were to march to Dandridge, where the cavalry had already arrived, there cross to the south side of the French Broad River by means of the fords (a bridge to be made of wagons and such boats as could be found), and then to occupy the country to the south of the river for the purpose of obtaining the corn and forage which were reported as abundant.

This force, under General Parke, arrived at Dandridge on the 15th, and Harker's brigade, Fourth Corps, commenced to build the bridge of wagons.

On the 16th the cavalry became hotly engaged with the enemy toward Kimbrough's Cross-Roads, and were driven back toward the town.

The enemy pressed hard on the following day, driving the cavalry close to the town and engaging some of the infantry. In the mean time the wagon bridge had been thrown across to what was supposed to be the south bank, and the brigade crossed over, but it was at length ascertained that they were on an island, and that another channel of the river remained to be bridged. As this would occupy six more hours, and as the coming rain would soon make it impossible to get up supplies, which were greatly needed, and as the whole of Longstreet's force was supposed to be in the immediate front, General Parke decided to fall back to Strawberry Plains.

This movement was commenced on the night of the 17th and completed during the two following days.

I immediately moved the whole Cavalry Corps through Knoxville to Sevierville to obtain forage, and gave orders that all stores should be sent down from Strawberry Plains, and that such parts of the bridge should be removed as would permit its being used immediately by the enemy; then to retire on this place preparatory to following our cavalry toward Sevierville.

Owing to the state of the roads the artillery could not be drawn by the animals in their weakened condition and had to be sent down by the railroad. This caused the loss of five caissons, which were

destroyed, the train sent to bring them having run off the track. Two pieces thus left were drawn in by the men of the Ninth Corps.

Before the Fourth Corps had proceeded 5 miles beyond the river toward Sevierville, reports came from the cavalry that the estimates of the amount of forage and grain to the south of the French Broad were much exaggerated, and that there was in reality barely enough for the cavalry alone, the enemy having already foraged to a considerable extent there.

This fact, coupled with this pressing nature of the enemy's movements, induced me to change my plans in order to provide against an advance of the enemy in force. It was reported (thus apparently confirming the reports conveyed to me in your dispatch of the 17th instant) that he was largely re-enforced. This rendered it necessary to guard securely my communications to the rear, and at the same time to obtain, as far as possible, subsistence from the country for men and animals.

I therefore placed the Twenty-third Corps in positions around this town. The Ninth Corps 5 miles south of the railroad, but still within supporting distance, if needed. The Fourth Corps guarding the rest of the railroad, Loudon and Kingston, with a division at Maryville, to collect the forage and grain of the neighboring country.

The cavalry were ordered to hold as far up the French Broad as possible, and to subsist themselves there.

All the animals and teams that could be spared were ordered to Camp Burnside. While these arrangements were in progress, the enemy's cavalry, on the 23d instant, made a dash upon and captured a drove of 800 cattle, which was being carelessly driven to this town from Cumberland Gap via Blain's Cross-Roads.

The guard, Company H, Tenth Michigan Cavalry, retired without firing a shot. I pushed out some infantry as soon as I heard of the affair, and recaptured about 200 of the cattle; the remainder had been hurried across the Holston by the rebels.

On the 24th instant the rebel cavalry made a dash at Tazewell, but was repulsed by Colonel Kise. General Garrard has since withdrawn the garrison of that place to Cumberland Gap, in order to concentrate his old regiments before the nine-months' regiments, whose terms of service have very nearly expired, shall leave for their homes.

On the 27th General Sturgis attacked the enemy's cavalry near Fair Garden, about 10 miles east of Sevierville, and after a sharp fight, lasting all day, defeated them with severe loss in killed and wounded, capturing over 100 prisoners and 2 steel rifled guns. Colonel McCook, with his division, was chiefly engaged, and finally cleared the field with a saber charge. Wolford's and Garrard's divisions came up after a forced march in time to join in the pursuit.

General Sturgis has orders to endeavor to cut the enemy's communications and make a raid in his rear, but I very much fear that the jaded condition of his horses will prevent the successful accomplishment of this object. General Garrard also has orders of the same purport.

The condition of the command is such as to demand rest for a time, if its services are expected to be of avail in the spring. The men are much weakened by their diet, which has consisted almost entirely of meat for the past two months, and are in such condition

that one or two more marches, at this time, will break them down entirely. The draft animals, also, are worn out, weak, and dying for want of forage. These things have convinced me that the safety of the army and the success of the spring campaign depend upon the disposition for rest that I have made.

By this means a very important object is gained, that of being able to permit the old regiments re-enlisting as veteran volunteers to go home at once for furlough and reorganization. This secures the hearty good-will instead of the dissatisfaction which would otherwise prevail among these men, with whom the privilege of a present furlough to go home is more powerful than the other inducements offered. The regiments will, in this way, also be sooner returned to the field in the spring, when their refilled ranks will be of more avail, in view of their own improved condition and that of the remaining troops.

The supplies are adequate in some respects, and entirely insufficient in others. We have plenty of pork and beef. Over half a million rations of pork have been salted and packed at this place; over half a million more rations of meat are now here on the hoof. Of bread and breadstuffs we have none. The hospitals are well supplied, but the scanty supplies obtained from Chattanooga furnish very little for the troops in the field, who have to be content with what they can glean from the country.

Since the opening of the line to Chattanooga, the following amount of bread, sugar, and coffee has been received: Of bread and flour, 136,201 rations; coffee, 598,150 rations; sugar, 640,732 rations; being on an average one-twelfth part of the rations of bread and three-eighths of coffee and sugar. To increase this supply, I am endeavoring to get the railroad in order through to Chattanooga as soon as possible. If there be sufficient rolling-stock placed on this road and the Nashville road, the Armies of the Ohio and the Cumberland can be well supplied. If sufficient rolling-stock cannot be supplied in time, I would respectfully suggest that the trains be used for carrying quartermaster's stores, bread and small rations, while beef-cattle be driven on the hoof to Chattanooga, as has been the practice in supplying this army.

The intentions of the enemy are satisfactorily ascertained from scouts and deserters. General Longstreet does not intend to advance, and if we advance he will resist at every favorable point, and fall back only when he is forced from these positions in succession, toward Bristoe and Abingdon. He will leave no supplies behind him. He has thus far lived on the country entirely, but that source is almost exhausted. The railroad will soon enable him to obtain supplies from Virginia, if they can be spared from that State. He has received re-enforcements, consisting of his Third Division (Pickett's) and some convalescents. Furloughs have been granted to 5 men from each company, for terms ranging from twenty-five to thirty-five days.

I believe that an advance on our part, with a view of driving him out of East Tennessee before we establish a base of supplies, especially over the bad roads of the winter, would be attended with disastrous consequences to this army; for Longstreet to advance will be equally disastrous to him and his army.

In the spring I can hold the present position and spare a whole corps for operations elsewhere, which of themselves would compel Longstreet's speedy departure from the State.

If possible we should avoid fighting a great battle in this section of the State. Large armies cannot be supported here for any length of time.

It is this conviction, with the necessities of the army, that have forced me to make the dispositions described above. These dispositions have for their object the present security and future improvement in strength of the army, the safety and enlargement of our communications to the rear, and the preparations for active operations so soon as the condition of the roads, the weather, and supplies will permit.

JANUARY 30.

I have just received a report from General Sturgis stating that the pursuit of General Martin's (rebel) division of cavalry resulted in its complete rout. Armstrong's division, pursued by Wolford's division, saved itself by falling back upon its infantry supports and securing a good defensive position. In the mean time a considerable force of infantry forded the river below Dandridge, which forced General Sturgis to fall back toward Maryville. I have sent him orders to collect all the good horses, to the number of 2,000, if possible, and make a raid toward Saltville, passing around by the way of Clinton, Cumberland Gap, and Jonesville.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
*Comdg. Division of the Mississippi, Nashville, Tenn.*

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BALTIMORE, MD.,
*February* 21, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor, in obedience to your direction, to make the following report of the operations of the Army of the Ohio while I was in command, and of the general condition of affairs in East Tennessee:*

General Grant visited Knoxville on the 30th of December, 1863. Seeing the suffering of the troops, he decided to have me await the arrival of supplies and the completion of the Strawberry Plains bridge before advancing. He left on the 7th of January to return by the way of Cumberland Gap. The cavalry, under General Sturgis, was almost constantly engaged with the enemy's cavalry in the direction of Dandridge and Mossy Creek after crossing the Holston. These fights culminated in a general cavalry engagement near Mossy Creek on the 29th [of December], in which the enemy were driven from the field toward Morristown. General Elliott's division of cavalry, from the Army of the Cumberland, particularly distinguished itself for gallantry.

On the 13th January, the main body of our cavalry having entirely exhausted the supplies in the country around Mossy Creek, were forced to move to Dandridge, where some little forage was to be found. The draft animals of the infantry and artillery, being

*General Foster relieved General Burnside on December 12, 1863. For portion of this report here omitted, see Series I, Vol. XXXI, Part I, p. 286.

by this time almost entirely without forage of any kind, were dying by the hundreds daily. It became a matter of the first importance to move to a position where forage, if not corn for the men, could be obtained at once. I therefore ordered the Fourth and Twenty-third Corps to move across the Strawberry Plains bridge (which was passable on the 15th January), to march to Dandridge, cross the French Broad River near that place on a bridge to be built of wagons and any boats that could be obtained, and then to occupy the country south of that river as far toward the Nola Chucky as possible. It was represented that a considerable quantity of corn was to be found in this section. Besides this, the movement would tend to disturb Longstreet concerning his left flank and communications to the rear, especially toward North Carolina. The Ninth Corps was ordered to hold Strawberry Plains, to be ready to support the movement while in progress, and afterward cover Knoxville.

The troops started on the 15th and reached Dandridge on the 17th, when the bridge was immediately commenced. It was completed to what was supposed to be the opposite bank of the river, and a brigade crossed over. It was soon found, however, to be upon an island, and that another channel of the river remained to be bridged. In the mean time the cavalry which had skirmished heavily with the enemy on the previous day (the 16th) near Kimbrough's Cross-Roads, 5 miles from Dandridge toward Morristown, had been forced back by the determined advance of the enemy almost to the town. General Parke satisfied himself that General Longstreet was in his front with his whole force, having advanced from his cantonments to meet our supposed advance in force. This fact, added to the delay in completing the bridge, the difficulty in crossing in presence of an active enemy, the want of rations, and the commencing rain, which would soon make it impossible to get up supplies from the rear over the then almost impassable roads, induced General Parke to decide to retire at once on Strawberry Plains, which he did without loss. I immediately ordered the whole force to move to Knoxville, cross the Holston on the pontoon bridge at that place (just completed), and ascend the south side of the French Broad to reach the foraging ground that it had failed to reach through Dandridge. As the cavalry passed through the town most of their horses had not been fed for forty-eight hours, and some of the artillery horses were without food for four days and nights. The cavalry reached and occupied the country south of the French Broad as far up as Fair Garden, 10 miles beyond Sevierville, and scouted through the entire country as far up as the Nola Chucky. The Fourth Corps in following was 4 miles out from Knoxville when I received General Sturgis' report that the reports of the supplies in that section of the country were very much exaggerated, inasmuch as they would only suffice his cavalry for three weeks, and that the roads were impracticable for wagons and artillery. Disappointed in this, no other course remained but that of distributing the bulk of the force to obtain forage and supplies wherever it could be found. I accordingly sent the Fourth Corps to Morrisville, Lenoir's Station, and Loudon, with orders to gather their supplies from the surrounding counties. The Ninth Corps occupied the railroad, within supporting distance of Knoxville. The Twenty-third Corps encamped around the town. All the draft animals were sent to the rear, on the Tennessee River, to forage. Those that were entirely broken down were sent back to Kentucky. The cavalry occu-

pied the country south of the French Broad until the supplies were nearly exhausted, when the enemy, feeling the necessity of driving it away, made the effort with his cavalry on the 27th January. General Sturgis met the enemy's cavalry at Fair Garden and completely defeated it, with a loss of 150 killed and wounded, 75 prisoners, 2 rifled field pieces, and some wagons and horses. The enemy's cavalry was then re-enforced by several brigades of infantry which had succeeded in fording the river, and General Sturgis was in his turn forced to fall back toward Morristown. Previous to this Colonel Palmer with his regiment, the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, had captured General Vance with his staff and 150 prisoners. Subsequently he sent an expedition against Colonel Thomas and his gang of whites and Indians at Quallatown, which succeeded in entirely breaking up the gang. All were killed or wounded except 50 that escaped into the mountains and 22 that were brought in as prisoners. The Governor of Kentucky having become anxious for the safety of that State from raids by the enemy, and having called on the Legislature to raise regiments for the defense of the State, I sent a division of dismounted cavalry to Mount Sterling, Ky., to be reorganized, remounted, and re-equipped for service, either against raids or in making them upon the flanks of the enemy's communication with Virginia. The remainder of the cavalry was ordered to the Little Tennessee River to forage.

Such was the military situation at the time I was relieved by General Schofield, on the 9th February, 1864. In Kentucky the detachments guarding railroads and posts had been reduced to the minimum. Cumberland Gap and the adjacent districts of the Clinch were under the command of Brigadier-General Garrard, who had an infantry and cavalry brigade under his command. In my opinion no offensive movement can be undertaken before the 1st of April, in East Tennessee, without running great risks of a disaster which may cause the loss of that section of the country. The reasons are, that the men and animals are worn down and need rest and recuperation; the country between the two armies is entirely exhausted of forage and all kinds of supplies, which it is impossible to haul from the rear in consequence of the bad roads of the winter and spring, and also of the lack of forage even at the rear. For lack of horses, caused by the want of forage, very little artillery can be taken on a march at this time. The green grass, with the green corn, wheat, &c., will by the 1st of April subsist the animals of an army on the march. The men will be recruited in strength, and the veteran regiments returned to their brigades, with, probably, filled ranks. The same reasons will keep General Longstreet inactive, unless forced to move. If, however, he should advance with his present force to attack Knoxville, the chances amount to almost certainty that he will meet with a great disaster. Knoxville, if properly defended, cannot be taken. It is naturally very strong, and I increased the strength of the defenses raised by General Burnside, and armed them with seventy pieces of artillery. As for supplies for a siege, they are ample. I had salted down over 500,000 rations of pork and collected 500 barrels of flour. If Longstreet attempts to march past Knoxville, for the purpose of destroying the communications with Chattanooga, resistance can be successfully made at the Little Tennessee or the Holston, as a line of defense, while re-enforcements are marching from Chattanooga. At the same time his communications will be open to flank attacks from Knoxville. If he should attempt to make

a raid into Kentucky through Pound Gap, Pendleton's Gap, or Crank's Gap (Cumberland Gap being held by us), a column formed of the disposable force at Knoxville, marching rapidly on his heels, can easily close the gaps in his rear, and perhaps capture his trains; while a force may be thrown around by rail from Chattanooga sufficient, with that in Kentucky, to destroy him. No large force will be thrown into East Tennessee by the rebels, unless we force them to do so by increasing our force and taking the offensive. It is in their power to increase Longstreet's force between this and the 1st of April by detaching from General Lee's army, but after that time they will not dare to diminish General Lee's force. If by great sacrifices General Longstreet be now driven from East Tennessee, he will re-enforce other rebel armies where his presence may be productive of more harm than in East Tennessee. While he is in his present position he can neither do damage in Virginia, North Carolina, nor assist General Johnston to resist our armies in Alabama and Georgia. The best policy seems to be to let him remain until the objects of the movements farther south are attained, and until the offensive can be taken with advantage; even then it is questionable whether the engagements with him should not have for object to retain him where he is until Atlanta, Mobile, Montgomery, and perhaps Augusta and Savannah, fall. Knoxville is only the left wing of the united armies under General Grant. It is 110 miles from the center at Chattanooga, a secondary base, which is still distant from the right wing and the primary base in Tennessee. It is very questionable whether the left wing should be pushed beyond Knoxville. By keeping the army there on the defensive, a considerable force may be spared from it to re-enforce the large army of the center to penetrate into Georgia, where every mile gained in advance tends to dissever the Confederacy. General Longstreet's force has been increased by a force from North Carolina, said to be Pickett's division, numbering 2,800 men. General Pickett did not come with it, but remained in North Carolina. Added to the above about 1,000 convalescents arrived from Richmond.

On the other side, he had suffered from desertions at the rate of 20 a day, and had allowed 5 per cent. of his force to go home on furloughs, ranging from twenty-five to thirty-five days each. His present strength is 21,000 infantry and artillery and 6,000 cavalry. The Army of the Ohio numbered (Twenty-third Corps, 7,000; Ninth Corps, 4,000; Fourth Corps, 8,000) 19,000 infantry and artillery, and 6,000 cavalry, of which, however, only about 3,500 were mounted. The question of supplies is satisfactorily settled. The railroad from Chattanooga to Loudon was opened. The work on the bridge at Loudon was being rapidly carried on; it should be finished in seventy days. A wagon bridge having been completed across the Holston at Knoxville, I ordered the pontoon bridge removed to Loudon, to enable the supplies brought up by rail to be wagoned across the river and thence conveyed by rail to Knoxville. The number of light-draught steamers on the river is to be increased. In general the condition of affairs in East Tennessee was so much improved as to produce a decided feeling of confidence.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
*Major-General of Volunteers.*

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
*General-in-Chief, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.*

No. 4.

*Itinerary of the Army of the Ohio, January 1–April 30.**

NINTH ARMY CORPS.†

January 1, the headquarters of the corps and troops were stationed at Blain's Cross-Roads, a distance of about 18 miles northeast of Knoxville.

January 16, the corps broke camp and marched to Strawberry Plains, a station on the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, a distance of about 8 miles in the direction of Knoxville.

January 18, Brig. Gen. R. B. Potter, commanding corps, goes home on leave of absence for thirty days. Brig. Gen. O. B. Willcox assigned to command of corps. The Second Division is temporarily attached to First Division.

January 21, engaged the enemy at Strawberry Plains and held him in check until next morning.

January 22, proceeded toward Knoxville, skirmishing with the enemy during the day; formed line of battle 3 miles from Knoxville and remained there until the morning of the 24th, the enemy in the mean time having fallen back toward Strawberry Plains.

January 24, the corps marched to Erin's Station, a distance of 5½ miles southwest from Knoxville.

January 26, Brig. Gen. O. B. Willcox ordered to command Second Division, which has been relieved from duty with the First Division. Maj. Gen. J. G. Parke assumes command of corps.

January 31, the headquarters of the corps are at Knoxville; the troops at Erin's Station.

The Twenty-first and Twenty-ninth Massachusetts Volunteers; Forty-fifth, Forty-eighth, Fiftieth, Fifty-first, and One hundredth Pennsylvania Volunteers; Second and Eighth Michigan Volunteers; Forty-sixth and Fifty-first New York Volunteers, and Second Maryland Volunteers have re-enlisted, and all marked thus (X‡) have gone home for furlough and reorganization.

February 1, broke camp at Erin's Station, Tenn., marched to Knoxville, Tenn., crossed Holston River, and encamped opposite Knoxville.

February 2, recrossed the Holston River at Knoxville and returned to camp at Erin's Station.

February 15, First Division marched to Knoxville and encamped near Fort Sanders; Second Division moved to a point on Clinton road near Knoxville.

February 18, First Division changed camp to a point on Clinton road; Second Division moved 1½ miles, joining right with left of First Division.

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*From monthly returns. The department was commanded by Maj. Gen. John G. Foster from December 9, 1863, to February 9, 1864, and Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield to November 17, 1864.

†Commanded by Maj. Gen. John G. Parke from January 26, 1864, to March 16, 1864; Brig. Gen. Orlando B. Willcox to April 13, 1864, and Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside to August 15, 1864.

‡Regiments so marked are the Twenty-first Massachusetts, Forty-fifth, Forty-eighth, Fiftieth, Fifty-first, and One hundredth Pennsylvania, Eighth Michigan, and Fifty-first New York.

February 24, marched to Strawberry Plains; 16 miles.
February 27, crossed Holston River at Strawberry Plains; marched 3 miles on Morristown road.
February 28, marched to Mossy Creek; 10 miles.
February 29, marched to Morristown, Tenn.; 13 miles.
March 2, corps moved from Morristown, Tenn., to Mossy Creek, Tenn.
March 12 and 13, marched from Mossy Creek to Morristown; slight skirmishing.
[March 14, the corps ordered to Annapolis, Md.]
March 17, corps moved toward Knoxville, having been ordered to Annapolis, Md.
March 19, reached Knoxville.
March 21, corps marched, taking the mountain road via Camp Burnside for Camp Nelson, Ky., Fifty-first New York Volunteers and convalescents being sent by rail via Loudon and Chattanooga, Tenn.
March 31, corps reached Camp Nelson, Ky.

## TWENTY-THIRD ARMY CORPS.*

### JANUARY.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Henry M. Judah.*

#### FIRST BRIGADE.

January 1 to 15, inclusive, remained in camp at Mossy Creek, Tenn.
January 16, left camp at Mossy Creek; marched to Strawberry Plains; distance, 14 miles.
January 17, arrived at Strawberry Plains and encamped.
January 18 to 20, remained in camp.
January 21, crossed the river, marched 8 miles, and encamped.
January 22, left camp, fell back about 2 miles, and bivouacked in line of battle, having skirmished all day with the enemy.
January 23, rested in camp.
January 24, fell back to Knoxville; distance, 4 miles; marched 2 miles out on the Tazewell road; encamped.
January 25 to 31, inclusive, remained in camp.

#### SECOND BRIGADE.

January 14, ordered to Dandridge.
January 15, arrived at Dandridge; neared the enemy, but no engagement.
January 17, ordered to Strawberry Plains.
January 18, arrived at Strawberry Plains; remained there two days and returned slowly to Knoxville.
January 24, reached Knoxville, where we remain.

* Commanded by Maj. Gen. George Stoneman from January 28 to April 4, 1864, and by Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield to April 2, 1865.

*Third Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Milo S. Hascall.*

FIRST BRIGADE.

January 12, the One hundred and fourth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and Eighth Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Infantry stationed at Strawberry Plains since the beginning of the month. The One hundred and fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry ordered to Knoxville, Tenn., to do provost duty.

January 22, the Eighth Tennessee ordered to Knoxville from Strawberry Plains, where they had been since January 1; took position on west side of city.

January 29, the One hundredth Ohio Regiment, stationed in Knoxville from the first of the month, ordered to take position near the Eighth Tennessee to do the picket duty on that side of the city, where they now remain.

SECOND BRIGADE.

January 1, the brigade encamped on the north side of the Holston River, near Strawberry Plains.

January 6, crossed the river and encamped on the Dandridge road, 1 mile from Strawberry Plains.

January 15, marched for Dandridge.

January 16, reached Dandridge.

January 17, moved to the support of our cavalry forces engaged with the enemy on the Morristown road; left Dandridge at night for Strawberry Plains.

January 19, reached Strawberry Plains.

January 21, moved from Strawberry Plains; at night picketed fords and road 4 miles out from the plains, skirmishing with the enemy.

January 22, moved to Knoxville; encamped on the north side until the 24th, when ordered to the south side of the river, where the brigade is now encamped.

*First East Tennessee Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. James G. Spears.*

January 1, brigade stationed at Massengale's house, near Holston River, about 30 miles northeast of Knoxville.

January 16, left Massengale's house, under orders to take up position at Flat Creek bridge. On the march to Flat Creek bridge the Third Tennessee Infantry was left at Richland Creek under orders to guard Blain's Cross-Roads and Stone's Mill. Arrived at Flat Creek bridge with the Fifth and Sixth Tennessee and four pieces of Battery A, First Ohio Artillery. The Fifth Tennessee Infantry was detached and ordered to Loudon, Tenn., where it has since remained. The artillery under Capt. J. K. Clingan, Company G, Fifth Tennessee Infantry, was received by him, owing to the re-enlistment of that battery and their return to Ohio on furlough January 13.

January 21, with the Third and Sixth Tennessee and artillery fell back, under orders, to Love's house, 5 miles northeast of Knoxville.

January 22, fell back, under orders, with the Ninth and Twenty-third Corps 1 mile from Love's house, and turned and confronted the advancing foe and forced them to retire.

January 25, remained on the ground until this date, when ordered to go into winter quarters, the Third Tennessee at Armstrong's Ford, 5 miles northeast of Knoxville; the Sixth Tennessee at the junction of Armstrong's Ferry and Strawberry Plains road, 4 miles from Knoxville. The artillery was ordered to Knoxville on the morning of the 22d, and has been under the control of Brigadier-General Tillson since that time. The Fifth Tennessee is yet at Loudon, and report Company G as on detached service; brigade headquarters 3 miles northeast of Knoxville, at what is called Love's Hill. Command generally in good condition, and was assigned to the Twenty-third Army Corps, January 21, by command of Major-General Foster.

FEBRUARY.

*First Division, commanded by Col. George W. Gallup, Fourteenth Kentucky Infantry.*

February 12 to 14, captured by detachment of the Fourteenth Kentucky Volunteers, under command of Lieutenant Brown, 1 orderly-sergeant of rebel cavalry, and killed 1 notorious guerrilla named Pennington.

February 15, the Fourteenth Kentucky Regiment, under command of Colonel Gallup, captured in Wayne County, Va., the rebel Colonel Ferguson, 2 lieutenants, 1 assistant surgeon, and 41 of his men, 80 stands of arms, 20 horses (killing 13), and all his ammunition, without the loss of a man.

February 22 to 28, captured, by a detachment of the Fourteenth Kentucky, 15 guerrillas and horse-thieves under Reuben Patrick in Magoffin County, Ky.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Henry M. Judah.*

February 24, the division marched from Knoxville, Tenn., to Strawberry Plains.

February 28, crossed the Holston River.

February 29, marched to New Market.

*Third Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Milo S. Hascall.*

FIRST BRIGADE.

February 11, moved camp from the north to the south side of Holston River opposite Knoxville.

February 20, the Fourth Tennessee moved out 3 miles on the Sevierville road, to support cavalry skirmishing with the enemy; returned same evening.

February 23, the One hundredth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and Eighth Tennessee moved at 1 a. m. as part of the force making a reconnaissance on the Sevierville road; went out 10 miles; found no enemy; returned same day.

February 24, brigade moved into Knoxville and took up position in the works around the city.

February 26, the Fiftieth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry assigned to First Brigade.

February 28, the Fiftieth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and Fourth Tennessee moved into the works south of the river opposite Knoxville, to replace the Second Brigade, Third Division, Twenty-third Army Corps, which moved to Strawberry Plains.

SECOND BRIGADE.

February 1, encamped on the south side of Knoxville.

February 5, pickets attacked by enemy's cavalry 2½ miles from Knoxville.

February 14, again attacked; made reconnaissance with six companies of each regiment 5 miles out on the Sevierville road.

February 20, rebel cavalry appeared on Sevierville road; pickets skirmished; enemy driven off with loss by a detachment of the Third Indiana Cavalry; our loss, 4 wounded.

February 22, made a reconnaissance under Major-General Stoneman to Shooks' and Pickins' Gap; found enemy's camp abandoned.

February 23, returned from reconnaissance.

February 29, marched to Strawberry Plains, where the brigade is now encamped.

*First East Tennessee Brigade, commanded by Col. William Cross, Third Tennessee Infantry.*

February 6, Brig. Gen. J. G. Spears in arrest.

February 15, the brigade, having remained at Love's Hill, 3 miles northeast of Knoxville, since the 1st of the month, was ordered and moved to Knoxville, Colonel Cross, Third Tennessee Infantry, in command, Colonel Cooper, the senior colonel, being reported sick.

February 23, ordered and moved toward Strawberry Plains. The Ninth Army Corps, Second Division, Twenty-third Corps, and Wood's division, Fourth Corps, all moved out this morning, arriving at the plains about 4.30 p. m.

February 26, crossed the river in the morning, where we lay over until the evening of the 29th.

February 29, took up the line of march for New Market; arrived about 9 p. m.

MARCH.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Henry M. Judah.*

March 1, the division marched to Panther Springs.

March 2, returned to Mossy Creek at night.

March 5, reconnaissance of 100 men from Tennessee Brigade made to Panther Springs; were attacked by near 500 rebel cavalry in open ground, but forced their way out, after gallant resistance, with a loss of 2 killed and 22 captured, inflicting on the enemy a far greater loss.

March 12, marched to Morristown.

March 14, repulsed reconnoitering party (350 rebel cavalry), inflicting a loss on them of 1 killed.

March 18, returned to Mossy Creek and went into camp.

*Third Division, commanded by Col. James W. Reilly, One hundred and fourth Ohio Infantry.*

March 1, the First Brigade was encamped at Knoxville and Second Brigade at Strawberry Plains.

March 10, the First Brigade joined the Second Brigade at Strawberry Plains; marched to Mossy Creek, going in camp at that place on the evening of same day.

March 12, moved to Morristown, encamping east of and adjacent to the town, remaining in camp until the morning of the 18th.

March 18, the divison was ordered to march to Mossy Creek; arrived in the afternoon and went into camp.

APRIL.

*First Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Alvin P. Hovey.*

April 5, took up line of march for Loudon, Tenn.; marched at the rate of 11½ miles per day.

April 24, arrived at Charleston, Tenn., where received orders assigning to the First Division, Twenty-third Army Corps, Department of the Ohio, since which time the command has been constantly on the move in face of the enemy, making it impossible to report sooner.

*Second Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Henry M. Judah.*

The division lay in camp at Mossy Creek, Tenn., until the 26th, when it marched via Knoxville to Calhoun, Tenn., where it arrived on the 30th.

*Third Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jacob D. Cox.*

April 1, the division marched from Mossy Creek, Tenn., to Morristown, Tenn.

April 2, marched to Bull's Gap, Tenn.

April 25, the Second Brigade marched to Jonesborough. The First Brigade marched to Lick Creek railroad bridge and destroyed the railroad entirely to 2 miles beyond Blue Springs; returned to Bull's Gap at night.

April 26, the Second Brigade reached Jonesborough in the evening.

April 27, marched back, destroying the railroad to Greeneville and reached Bull's Gap on the morning of the 29th; division commenced moving to Charleston, Tenn., partly marching and partly by railroad.

April 30, camps located at Charleston, Tenn.

*Fourth Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jacob Ammen.*

The Fourth Division, Twenty-third Army Corps, organized by Special Orders, No. 101, dated Headquarters Department of the Ohio, Knoxville, Tenn., April 10, 1864, at which date Brig. Gen. J. Ammen assumed command.

April 25, Capt. Benjamin K. Weatherwax, Company C, Tenth Michigan Cavalry, killed in action at Watauga bridge, Carter's Station, Tenn.; 7 men wounded at same time.

*Fifth Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Edward H. Hobson.*

Almost the whole month occupied in organizing the division and nothing worthy of note transpired, except an engagement near Paintsville, Ky., in which Colonel Gallup, commanding the First Brigade, encountered and completely routed a force of the enemy under Colonel Clay. During the engagement Clay was wounded and fell into our hands, together with 60 of his men; also a large number of horses, saddles, and small-arms. This occurred on the 14th. Colonel Weatherford, commanding the Thirteenth Kentucky Cavalry, had several skirmishes along the Green and Cumberland Rivers during the month, all of which were unimportant.

## CAVALRY.

### JANUARY.

*First Division, Cavalry Corps, commanded by Col. Frank Wolford, First Kentucky Cavalry.*

January 1, First and Second Brigades remained at Mossy Creek, doing heavy picketing until the 14th, when we moved to Dandridge, 12 miles, and went into camp, after skirmishing with the enemy about 1 mile from town. The Third Brigade still at Buffalo Creek, on north side of Holston River.

January 16, the division moved out on the Chucky road toward Morristown, 4 miles, when we came upon a much superior force of the enemy in strong position with artillery. The division held its position until the enemy moved down on either flank in strong columns, overpowering our small force sent to check the movement, when we fell back in excellent order to the position held by us in the morning, the enemy following us boldly. We had no artillery. Lieutenant-Colonel Adams, First Kentucky Cavalry, commanding First Brigade, made a flank movement on the enemy, driving him in confusion from his camp, but was overpowered, and after a gallant resistance fell back slowly to the Third Brigade.

January 17 (Sunday), the enemy attacked the entire line about 2 p. m. This division had heavy skirmishing until dark, the enemy's line and ours in talking distance when night came on. About 10 p. m. (the army having been ordered to fall back to Mossy Creek) this division fell back, holding the rear.

January 18, fell back to Strawberry Plains, fording the Holston River.

January 19, marched to Knoxville.

January 20 and 21, marched 3 miles north of Sevierville and encamped.

January 22, marched to Fair Garden, 10 miles, and encamped, and remained until the 25th, when the division moved back 3 miles for convenience of forage and water.

January 26, marched to Flat Creek, near Fowler's house, and took position. Had heavy skirmishing with the enemy. After dark fell back near Sevierville and encamped.

January 27, moved back to Flat Creek, and then across on Sevierville and Fair Garden road to the support of the Second Division, and encamped at night near Fair Garden.

January 28, marched to Kelley's Ford and attacked the enemy's position. Had sharp fighting for two hours, and then fell back (the enemy not pursuing) to Maryville via Tuckaleechee, Wear's and Miller's Coves, reaching Maryville at 4 p. m.

January 31, Third Brigade in Lee County, Va. The stock of this division is entirely unserviceable for active operations.

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**JANUARY 1–APRIL 18,1864.— Hughs' operations in Middle Tennessee.***

*Report of Col. John M. Hughs, Twenty-fifth Tennessee Infantry.*

DALTON, GA., *April* 28, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following report of my operations in Middle Tennessee :†

During the very cold weather in January, 1864, it was impossible to operate on a large scale and our time was occupied in hunting down the bushwhackers and tories, and for that purpose my command was divided; a portion under Major Bledsoe, of the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry (this officer had been cut off from Major-General Wheeler's command and had reported to me for duty) operated in White County, and the part commanded by myself remained in Overton. During the month of January a great many tories and bushwhackers were killed and some slight engagements with the enemy occurred.

On the 14th of February I was rejoined by Major Bledsoe, and on the 15th we attacked and defeated a party of bushwhackers and tories, numbering some less than 100, under Captains Dowdy and Beaty, killing 17, capturing 2, and effectually dispersing the whole gang. On the 22d of February we met a party of "picked men" from the Fifth Tennessee (Yankee) Cavalry, under Captain Exum.‡ This party had refused to treat us as prisoners of war, and had murdered several of our men whom they had caught straggling from their command. The enemy numbered 110 men; my own force was about 60. The fighting on our part was severe in the extreme; men never fought with more desperation or gallantry. Forty-seven of the enemy were killed, 13 wounded, and 4 captured; our loss was 2 wounded.

On the 26th February, I captured Washington, East Tenn., with 65 prisoners, killing 3 and wounding 7.

On the 27th February, we routed a new company of State Guards, forming under Governor Johnson's orders, in Sequatchie Valley, under Captain Pirom, capturing 23 prisoners and entirely breaking up the contemplated organization.

On the 10th March I met and fought in White County another detachment of Colonel Stokes' Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, under Captain Blackburn, numbering about 125 men; my command numbered something less than 100 men. After about ten minutes severe fighting, I was forced to retire with a loss of 1 killed and 3 wounded; the enemy's loss was 3 killed and 7 wounded, according to their own accounts.

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*Includes skirmishes in Overton County, February 15, and on Calfkiller Creek, February 22; capture of Washington, February 26; skirmishes in Sequatchie Valley, February 27, and in White County, March 10; raid on Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, near Tullahoma, March 16; and skirmish March 20.

†The portion here omitted relates to operations August 16–December 31, 1863, and is printed in Series I, Vol. XXX, Part II, p. 646, and Vol. XXXI, Part I, p. 575.

‡On Calfkiller Creek.

On the 16th March we tore up the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad near Tullahoma and captured a train of freight cars heavily laden with supplies for the Federal army at Chattanooga. About 60 Yankee soldiers were captured and about 20 Yankee negroes killed. The train and supplies were burned and the engine destroyed.

On the morning of the 20th March we were, for the first and only time, surprised by the enemy while in camp and suffered a loss of 2 men killed and some property captured, including some valuable papers of my own. The enemy in this affair lost 7 killed and 8 wounded, according to their own report.

Soon after this I again attempted to return to my regiment. I started on the 2d April with 95 officers and men, all that I could prevail on to come out with me. On arriving within about 20 miles of Morristown, East Tenn., I learned that our army had left that locality, and I was compelled to return to the section from which I came. On this trip 2 of my men were captured and 6 of the enemy were killed. Upon our return the jaded condition of our horses made some rest necessary, and during that time a consultation was held, when it was decided to again attempt to get through to the army, but in small squads of from 20 to 30. Accordingly, on the 18th April, I started out with a small party, and after much difficulty succeeded in reaching the Army of Tennessee at Dalton, Ga., on the 26th April. I immediately reported to General Joseph E. Johnston, commanding, for instructions, and was directed by him to rejoin my brigade as soon as convenient. Some of my command came out about the same time under direction of Captain Gore, of the Eighth Tennessee Cavalry. Some have made their way out since and many refused to come out at all, preferring to remain and take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government.

During my operations the number of men under my command varied from 85 to 300; as, under the circumstances, proper discipline could not be enforced, the men came and went pretty much at will, though all mild means were used to maintain discipline.

Had I been properly authorized to organize a mounted command from such material as I could find there, I could easily have raised a full regiment of cavalry, as, besides citizens who had never been in the service, there were numbers of deserters from the infantry in the country who would willingly have rejoined the service as cavalrymen.

During my stay in that section no time was spent in idleness. We were almost constantly in the saddle, and not a week passed but more or less fighting took place. Many engagements not mentioned in this report occurred with the enemy; something over 400 of them were killed, including a great many of the worst tories in the country; many were wounded and from 600 to 700 were captured and paroled, and I am confident that my command destroyed for the enemy over half a million dollars' worth of Government stores, besides capturing and destroying 3,000 or 4,000 stands of small-arms. Our operations necessitated the presence of from 5,000 to 8,000 of the enemy's regular troops, who were held at different points to watch and guard against our movements; besides, our presence afforded protection to a large section of country against the depredations of the gangs of robbers and bushwhackers, who had become a scourge to the Southern citizens.

The nature of the service engaged in required rapid marches, and the country being extremely rough and hilly good horses lasted but a short time and many changes were necessary, and it was only with

great care and considerable expense that the men could keep themselves mounted. Owing to the scarcity of forage and provisions our expenses were very heavy, and as the people were unwilling to take receipts or scrip for anything furnished us I was compelled to pay all expenses in money out of my own funds. Receipts were taken when circumstances would admit, all of which were captured with my other papers by the enemy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. HUGHS,
*Colonel, Commanding Detachment.*

Capt. WALTER WEIR,
*A. A. G., Johnson's Brigade.*

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## JANUARY 3, 1864.—Action at Jonesville, Va.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Orlando B. Willcox, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Col. Wilson C. Lemert, Eighty-sixth Ohio Infantry.
No. 3.—Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army, commanding Confederate forces in East Tennessee.
No. 4.—Brig. Gen. William E. Jones, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Brigade.
No. 5.—Lieut. Col. Alphonso F. Cook, Eighth Virginia Cavalry.
No. 6.—Capt. John B. Thompson, Twenty-seventh Virginia Cavalry Battalion.
No. 7.—Maj. James R. Claiborne, Thirty-seventh Virginia Cavalry Battalion.
No. 8.—Lieut. Col. Auburn L. Pridemore, Sixty-fourth Virginia Cavalry.

### No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Orlando B. Willcox, U. S. Army.*

NEAR MAYNARDVILLE, *January* 6, 1864—8 a. m.,

GENERAL: I have just received a dispatch from Colonel Lemert reporting a cavalry force at Jonesville, which encountered Major Beeres' battalion, Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry, and captured it after a fight. The force is represented to be Jones' brigade. Beeres lost 2 mountain howitzers and a 3-inch gun and a forage train of 21 wagons, which he was protecting. He was scouting and had received intelligence of no force besides that which he had previously encountered and whipped. Colonel Thielemann, at Tazewell, reports a small force of cavalry and infantry crossing the Clinch. He does not say at what ford; he thinks it is intended to draw attention from the force on the Jonesville road. Colonel Matson has been detained, but even with his cavalry, if the report turns out true, the line is not safe, and more cavalry is needed. Colonel Lemert reports that he has but one day's full rations of hard bread and flour.

The rebels are reported to have left Jonesville for Mulberry Gap immediately after the fight. General Grant is here and going forward this morning. Says if the infantry here is needed he will send me back word.

Please forward this to General Foster.

Very respectfully, yours,

O. B. WILLCOX,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. Gen. J. G. PARKE,
*Commanding Forces in Field, Strawberry Plains.*

No. 2.

*Report of Col. Wilson C. Lemert, Eighty-sixth Ohio Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Cumberland Gap, January 5*, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to make the following report:

I regret to inform you of the loss of Major Beeres' command, Third Battalion, Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry, parts of two companies Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry, First Lieut. A. B. Alger and 17 men, Twenty-second Ohio Battery, 2 mountain howitzers and 1 3-inch Rodman gun.

On the 1st of this month I directed Major Beeres to attack the rebel force at Jonesville, which was reported to me as 400 men of Sixty-fourth and Twenty-seventh Virginia Mounted Infantry.

Major Beeres' command camped at Jonesville on Friday night, and as I learn only picketed the road in the direction of Stickleyville. At daybreak Sunday morning, General Sam. Jones' command of 2,000 rebels attacked Major Beeres from the direction of Mulberry Gap, completely surprising and for some time driving him into confusion. The major finally rallied his men and fought the enemy till 3 p. m., when, his artillery ammunition having been some time exhausted, and he having had 1 lieutenant and about 30 men killed, and 2 lieutenants wounded, he surrendered his force of about 250 men, 1 rifled gun, and 2 mountain howitzers.

I have the above report from a servant of one of Major Beeres' officers. The enemy has driven in my outposts, and on Sunday last he captured one of my forage trains, 21 wagons, some 15 miles this [side] of Jonesville, that Major Beeres was protecting.

The Seventy-first, Twenty-first, Eighty-fifth, Ninety-seventh, Sixty-fourth, Twenty-seventh, and Ninth Virginia and the Tenth Kentucky rebel regiments are said to be at Jonesville; the exact number I can not learn. The Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry is at Mulberry Gap, but I have been compelled to send couriers to recall them. I have ordered Colonel Thielemann to detain Colonel Matson's command until I can communicate with General Willcox and send one battalion to this post, which I hope will meet the approval of the general. With the force here now I am unable to procure forage or subsistence for my command. Lieutenant-Colonel Matson has been delayed in complying with Special Orders, No. 63, until now, on account of his horses being unshod and unable to travel.

The servant who escaped from Major Beeres' command further informs me that a short time before the surrender the major could have retreated in this direction, but he took up another position and renewed the attack, and in less than an hour he found his ammunition exhausted and his force surrounded, and was compelled to surrender.

I telegraphed Captain Bell, commissary of subsistence, Camp Nelson, about the 20th of December for subsistence for my command for thirty days, and he replied in two days that he had started one train and was about to start another, but as I have telegraphed to London I can hear of no train for this post. I fear my subsistence has been turned toward Knoxville. I have only one day's full rations for my present command of hard bread or flour and salt meat, but plenty of fresh meat, sugar, and coffee.

I am just informed that a force of 1,400 rebel cavalry left Jonesville for Mulberry Gap immediately after Major Beeres surrendered, and I fear the gap has been taken with the garrison of the Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry.

I have the honor to be, colonel, your obedient servant,

W. C. LEMERT,

*Colonel, Commanding Forces at Cumberland Gap and Tazewell.*

Colonel BOWMAN,
*Chief of Staff.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army, commanding Confederate forces in East Tennessee.*

RUSSELLVILLE, *January* 9, 1864.

A portion of our cavalry, under Brig. Gen. W. E. Jones, attacked on the 3d instant a force of 300 of the enemy near Jonesville, and killed and wounded and captured the whole of it, with 3 pieces of artillery and 20 wagons and teams.

J. LONGSTREET,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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No. 4.

*Report of Brig. Gen. William E. Jones, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS JONES' CAVALRY BRIGADE,
*Jonesville, Va., January 7,* 1864.

COLONEL: Preparatory to executing the design imparted in your confidential note of the 28th ultimo,* I moved my command across Clinch River on the 2d instant. Soon after going into camp information reached me that the enemy had driven Lieutenant-Colonel Pridemore through this place, and was still going east. I at once determined to cross Powell's Mountain that night to attack him in rear, and ordered Colonel Pridemore to attack in front as soon as he found me engaged. The weather was intensely cold. Many of my men could not be started from their camps. Every halt of a few moments fires were started, and probably more than half of those who did leave were far in rear before daylight. The road was rough and in many places almost impassable from ice, but onward we went with all that could or would go. One man was frozen to death and many were badly frost-bitten.

Arriving at daylight in the vicinity of the enemy, well nigh conquered by the hardships encountered by my poorly clad and shod men, I had the satisfaction to find we were unexpected guests. No pickets were on the road we came. We were charging their camp before they were aware of our presence. They flew to their arms and fought manfully. Our leading company succeeded in capturing their artillery, but was not supported quickly enough to avoid losing it again. The enemy falling back took shelter in a farm-house and outbuildings, placing his artillery so advantageously as to make

* See Vol. XXXI, Part III, p. 875.

a heavy sacrifice of life necessary to dislodge him. Feeling secure of the prey my men were kept well sheltered, and skirmished just enough to keep the enemy firing his artillery to exhaust its ammunition. Toward sundown Colonel Pridemore made his appearance east of the enemy, my command being to the west, thus hemming him in the valley.

About this time the enemy quitted the houses and took position on a neighboring eminence. As soon as he was far enough from his shelter to make return impossible a general assault was ordered, a surrender enforced in a few minutes.

We captured 383 officers and men, 45 of whom were wounded, and we killed 10, took 3 pieces of atillery and 27 6-mule wagons and teams. Five of the wagons were broken in the capture.

Early on the morning of the 4th one of my scouts returned, reporting the garrison at Cumberland Gap from 1,000 to 1,500, which was confirmed from other sources.

My ammunition was nearly exhausted and my wagons, being compelled to make a detour by Pattonsville, did not reach me until the evening of the 5th, when it was too late to effect what was intended for me to undertake. There is probably subsistence enough for my men and horses to March 1 in this county, though long forage will be scant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. E. JONES,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Col. G. M. SORREL,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Army East Tennesse.*

[Indorsement.]

JANUARY 21, 1864.

Respectfully submitted to the President, who may be interested by the success alluded to by the explanation of the causes that frustrated the more important enterprise.

J. A. SEDDON,
*Secretary of War.*

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No. 5.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Alphonso F. Cook, Eighth Virginia Cavalry.*

HDQRS. EIGHTH VIRGINIA CAVALRY,
*March* 10, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to herewith transmit a report of the part taken by the Eighth Regiment Virginia Cavalry in the action at Jonesville, Lee County, Va., on 3d day of January, 1864.

On reaching the point in rear of the enemy's camp from which the attack was made about 8 a. m., I received an order from General Jones to place the three companies armed with pistols and sabers in front. I did so, and placed Capt. H. C. Everett in command of those companies, with instructions to charge the enemy's camp and take his artillery and hold him in check until I could support him with the other six companies. Captain Everett advanced at the trot until he came opposite the camp, when he ordered one company to charge the camp and the other two to charge after the battery of 3 guns which the enemy was endeavoring to get into position in the road

about 500 yards from their camp. I was prevented from following up and supporting Captain Everett as it should have been done in consequence of a bad place in the road, through which the men were compelled to ride by file. When I reached the point at which we entered the camp I could not ascertain where Captain Everett was, and supposing the whole force of the enemy to be in the camp I dismounted my men as quickly as possible and went to the relief of the company then engaged.

In the mean time Captain Everett had taken possession of the artillery, held it a few minutes, and had been driven back by overwhelming numbers. My men, aided by a portion of the Twenty-seventh Virginia Battalion, drove the enemy's advance in a few minutes from their positions behind trees, rocks, &c., in the camp, when they fled in confusion back to where their main force had taken position in and around Milburn's house. I then reformed the six companies and advanced through the field under fire from the artillery to a fence about 400 yards from their position. Here I halted and kept up a heavy fire for a few minutes, when I received an order from General Jones to move my command to the hill on the left and take possession of Milburn's house if possible. I then left two companies to guard the road, and took the other four with me to the top of the hill. Here I found a portion of the enemy's force, and after collecting all the men I could from other commands we drove them from the woods through the corn-field and down the hill into Milburn's house and outhouses. As soon as I came in full view of their position and numbers I saw that it would be folly to attempt to take the house, as I saw more men enter it and the outhouses than I had with me to make the attack. I then withdrew into the woods again to await further orders. The enemy made several attempts to regain the woods, but failed in all.

About 3 p. m. I received an order from General Jones to send a portion of my command across to the road leading to Crank's Gap. I sent three companies under Captain Rocke to that road, and went myself to bring up the two companies that were left on the road. Before I could return an advance was made by the whole command and the enemy surrendered unconditionally.

The loss in the regiment was—Lieut. A. H. Samuels and 4 enlisted men killed and 7 wounded.

Both officers and men behaved as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. F. COOK,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Eighth Virginia Cavalry.*

Lieut. W. M. HOPKINS,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 6.

*Report of Capt. John B. Thompson, Twenty-seventh Virginia Cavalry Battalion.*

Official report of the part taken by the Twenty-seventh Virginia Battalion of Cavalry in the engagement at Jonesville, Lee County, Va., on January 3, 1864:

LIEUTENANT: On arriving within half a mile of the enemy's camp on the morning of January 3 I was directed by General W. E. Jones,

commanding, to move my battalion, already in column of fours, to the main Cumberland Gap road, a short distance north of its then present position, and upon reaching that road to charge the enemy's camp in concert with two companies of the Eighth Virginia Cavalry, who would move upon the river road. On arriving upon the eminence above Wynn's house, a short distance west of the enemy's camp, I became aware that I was ahead of the two companies of the Eighth; but satisfied that my approach had been perceived by parties of the enemy who ran out of Wynn's house in the direction of their camp, I determined to charge the enemy before they could be aroused in their camp and get to their arms. This I did successfully, capturing quite all the force stationed on the Cumberland Gap road, amounting to 55.

In the loss I sustained a loss of 4 men severely wounded. The enemy's loss was 3 killed on the field and 6 wounded.

After the capture of this force I dismounted my men, and leaving a detachment sufficient to guard the prisoners I moved rapidly with the remainder of my battalion within a short distance of the junction of the Cumberland Gap and river road, below or west of Milburn's house, into which and the outhouses a large body of the enemy had taken refuge. Here I took position and awaited the arrival of the rest of the troops. Shortly thereafter I moved my command to an eminence on the left or north of the road, the enemy in the mean time having taken position upon a second eminence in my front, also to the left or north of the road. This position I occupied until a general advance was ordered. I then moved directly upon the enemy, who at once opened fire and kept it up until my line was near them. Upon perceiving that they were completely invested by the lines of other commands of the brigade, which were, like with my own, advanced within a short distance of their position, they surrendered about 3 p. m.

My loss in this advance was none killed and none wounded.

My men and officers acted well throughout the engagement.

I am, lieutenant, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. THOMPSON,
*Captain, Commanding, &c.*

Lieut. W. M. HOPKINS,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Jones' Brigade.*

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No. 7.

*Report of Maj. James R. Claiborne, Thirty-seventh Virginia Cavalry Battalion.*

HDQRS. THIRTY-SEVENTH VIRGINIA BATTALION CAV.,
*Ball's Bridge, Lee County, Va., March* 8, 1864.

GENERAL: In obedience to orders just received calling for my official report of the engagement at Jonesville, Va., on 3d day of January, 1864, and at Gibson's Mill*, on February 22, 1864, I have the honor to submit the following:

On the evening of January 1, in obedience to orders, I withdrew my pickets from near Mooresburg, on the Rogersville and Knoxville

*See p. 411.

turnpike, and proceeded with my command to rejoin the brigade, then encamped at Little War Gap.

The brigade having moved previous to my arrival at the latter place, I followed and joined the brigade on the evening of January 2 on the north bank of Clinch River. Owing to the swollen condition of the stream and the extreme darkness of the night a number of my men failed to cross, and remained on the south side of the river.

My command was halted on the morning of January 3 with the remainder of brigade for the purpose of reforming. I there ascertained that many of my men had straggled from the line of march on account of the severe cold and their naked condition, many being entirely without shoes. I could not muster more than 100 effective men. One man froze in the saddle and several others were frosted.

I was ordered to follow the Twenty-seventh Virginia Battalion Cavalry. I entered the Jonesville and Cumberland Gap turnpike some 300 yards below the enemy's camp at Jonesville, Va. We moved up at a gallop in column of fours, well closed on the Twenty-seventh Battalion, which halted on the summit of the hill and opened a light fire upon the enemy, at the same time dismounting. The road ahead being blocked, and having no orders but to follow the Twenty-seventh, I dismounted a portion of my command and formed on the left of the turnpike. We pursued the enemy across the field some 100 yards, capturing a number of prisoners. The enemy turning his battery upon us in open field and at short range, my command fell back a short distance, where I succeeded in rallying all, except such as were guarding prisoners to the rear. By your orders I then moved by the left flank and succeeded in carrying a hill heavily timbered and occupied by a few of the enemy's skirmishers and overlooking his battery. Shortly after my occupation of this hill Lieutenant-Colonel Cook came up with a detachment of the Eighth Virginia Cavalry and took command of the whole. The enemy with a small force made an attempt to retake the hill, but were repulsed and pursued by us to within some 250 yards of his main body, when he opened upon us with grape and canister, and thinking it impracticable to attempt to drive him from the Milburn house, near the center of his lines, we fell back to the summit of the hill, where we remained, exchanging a few occasional shots with the enemy till about 3.30 p. m., when Colonel Cook was withdrawn with his detachment. In some twenty minutes after I was ordered to move forward upon the enemy, who had evacuated the Milburn house, and then occupied the hill directly toward Jonesville and in my front.

In making this move the enemy fired several volleys into my advancing line, which was informally drawn on account of the nature of the ground over which we had to pass; and at this time of the engagement I sustained my only loss, which was 4 men severely wounded, none killed.

I continued to advance, and when within 150 yards of the enemy he ceased firing and the engagement on my part here ceased.

Respectfully,

JAMES R. CLAIBORNE,
*Major, Comdg. Thirty-seventh Virginia Battalion Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM E. JONES,
*Commanding Cavalry Brigade.*

No. 8.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Auburn L. Pridemore, Sixty-fourth Virginia Cavalry.*

HDQRS. SIXTY-FOURTH VIRGINIA CAVALRY,
*January* 8, 1864.

CAPTAIN: On the morning of January 3, 1864, I received an order from Brig. Gen. W. E. Jones to press the enemy on the north of the road east of Jonesville. Moving forward double-quick for 11 miles, I found Jonesville occupied by about 50 Yankees. I drew up in line, dismounted, took possession of the hill east of town, and opened fire. In ten minutes we had possession of the town. Not knowing anything of the force or intention of General Jones I dispatched him and awaited his further orders.

In a few minutes I received through a staff officer an order to attack the enemy (now driven by the force below from Milburn's to a position on a high hill west of town) in a line perpendicular to the Valley road. Just as my line of attack was formed Captain Caudill, with 100 of the Tenth Kentucky, came up, making my whole strength about 230. Major Richmond had command of the right, Captain Caudill of the left wing. We now commenced to advance through an old sage-grass field under fire of their artillery. We moved to within 250 yards of the enemy's line and battery and opened a well-directed fire on his front. After a few rounds I observed that his lines might be easily flanked. I took command of the right wing, leaving Major Richmond that of the left and Captain Caudill's men. I had with me about 50 men. I soon took possession of a small ridge in the enemy's rear, having previously driven the enemy's sharpshooters in off of the same ridge. Then ordered Major Richmond forward (who was also on the advance) with an intention to unite my whole force and charge the battery, but before I could reorganize the line the enemy surrendered—240 in number, 3 pieces of artillery, 405 wagons, all of their arms, horses, &c.

Soldiers from all the regiments coming up who had won honors in the morning and fought with us now, and justly entitled to share with us, joined in collecting the spoils. What was retained in the Sixty-fourth Virginia has been properly accounted for.

The Sixty-fourth Virginia and Tenth Kentucky, both officers and men, acted gallantly. Major Richmond conducted his wing with skill and ability.

I had Captain Poteet, Company B, wounded slightly; Private Bryant, Company B, wounded mortally; Private Ratliff, Company F, in leg slightly; Private Flaney, Company I, in thigh severely. Four non-commissioned officers and privates in Tenth Kentucky wounded. Particulars not known.

I am, captain, your most obedient servant,

A. L. PRIDEMORE,
*Lieut. Col., Comdg. Sixty-fourth Virginia Cavalry.*

Captain MARTIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

**JANUARY 3, 1864.—Scout from Memphis, Tenn., toward Hernando, Miss.**

*Report of Capt. Lucius B. Skinner, Sixth Illinois Cavalry.*

HDQRS. SIXTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY VOLUNTEERS,
*Memphis, Tenn., January 3, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: Capt. D. L. Grimes, sent out this morning with detachments of Companies I and K, proceeded on the Hernando road to within 4 miles of Hernando. He saw only some small squads of the enemy when near that place, but hearing that there was a force in the town too large for him to compete with, he took an easterly course, intersecting the Holly Ford and Hernando road, and returned to camp by that road.

The enemy are reported to be on Coldwater, with headquarters at or near Coldwater Station, the troops very much scattered over the country, from Coldwater to Senatobia, wherever they can obtain forage. They are variously estimated in numbers, by some as high as 8,000, under the command of Forrest, Faulkner, and others.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. B. SKINNER,
*Captain, Commanding Detachment Sixth Illinois Cavalry.*

Capt. F. W. FOX,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**JANUARY 4–14, 1864.—Operations about Sparta, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Thomas J. Harrison, Eighth Indiana Cavalry.**

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Cedar Grove, January 14, 1864.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that on the 4th instant I proceeded to the other side of the Cumberland Mountains with 200 men, dividing them into four parties. Capt. Thomas Herring was sent down Caney Fork with 60 men; Capt. W. W. De Witt with 50 men directly on Sparta; Captain Leavell down the Blue Spring Cove with 30 men, and I headed a party of 60 men that descended the mountain at the head of the Calfkiller. We respectively reached the points designated at daylight on Tuesday morning. My orders to the various parties were to move in the direction of Sparta and concentrate at that point in the evening, arresting all the men that could be found. The points designated include the localities of Captain Carter's, Capt. Champ Ferguson's, Major Bledsoe's, and Colonel Murray's squads of bushwhackers. Our move resulted in considerable skirmishing. We remained on the Calfkiller for five days, and in the time we killed 4 of the bushwhackers and wounded 5 or 6, capturing 15, including a captain and lieutenant, 30 horses, and 20 stand of arms. We visited the farm of Champ Ferguson on two occasions, capturing much of the sutler's goods taken by him from Colonel Brownlow's sutler, and 5 of his horses, with many valuable

* See also Thomas' report, p. 7.

articles. We had 2 men captured by straggling, but they were stripped of horses, arms, and valuable clothing, and turned loose. Before we left the valley these bandits would fly to the mountains on the approach of even a squad of our men.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. HARRISON,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

[Brig. Gen. WILLIAM D. WHIPPLE,
*Chief of Staff.*]

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**JANUARY 5, 1864.—Skirmish at Lawrence's Mill, Tenn.**

*Reports of Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, First Cavalry Division.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Mossy Creek, Tenn., January* 5, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that the forage detail, Second Brigade, to-day attacked the enemy's picket at Lawrence's Mill, 5 miles east of Mossy Creek, and captured 12 men with their arms and 9 horses, without loss.

Very respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Cavalry Division, Dept. Cumb.*

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HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Near Mossy Creek, January* 5, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that the scout to Lawrence's Mill has just returned, bringing 1 lieutenant and 11 men prisoners. The battalion reported at the mill had not been stationed there, but at Hunt's Mill, 1½ miles from Lawrence's, and had removed before we arrived, leaving a picket, most of which was captured. The nearest rebel force is reported to be at Panther Springs. Inclosed please find list of prisoners.*

Very respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel, Comdg. 2d Brig.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, First Cavalry Division.*

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**JANUARY 6, 1864.—Attack on Steamer Delta, on the Mississippi River.**

*Report of Col. Lawrence S. Ross, Sixth Texas Cavalry, commanding brigade.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, JACKSON'S CAVALRY DIV.,
*Gaines' Landing, Mississippi River, January* 6, 1864—7 p. m.

MAJOR: The transport Delta was disabled by my battery at 12 m. to-day, run to the opposite shore, and abandoned. Large gun-boat,

* List omitted.

name not visible, came up ; received three raking shots and sought safety in flight, having fired but once. Have but one inferior flat-boat, and cannot cross for high wind and waves. Looking for Colonel Harrison's forces on the other bank every minute. He has not come to time. Carried 2,000 stands of arms 50 miles on horses. Succeeded in crossing some and hid them in the cane with small guard. Tried to haul boats from the Sunflower, but wagons could not pass over the road. Broke the axle-tree of one of my rifled pieces in the action to-day. Will save the piece. Great many boats running the river. I will be forced to leave the river in two or three days on account of the mud and scarcity of supplies.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. S. ROSS,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Major HOLT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**JANUARY 9, 1864.—Skirmish at Terman's Ferry, Ky.**

*Report of Maj. Rhys M. Thomas, Fourteenth Kentucky Infantry.*

CATLETTSBURG, KY.,
*January* 16, 1864.

CAPTAIN: As a company of Thirty-ninth Kentucky was moving down the west bank of the Sandy River, between Louisa and Catlettsburg, Ky., about 14 miles above the last place, a detachment of Colonel Ferguson's rebel regiment, about 150 men, led by Ferguson in person, attacked the company, who were in camp for the night, and killed 1 lieutenant and captured 1 lieutenant and 8 men. The rebels crossed the Big Sandy River on the ice. The Union force numbered 75 strong, commanded by Captain King. Twenty men were sent to hospital at Ashland, being badly frozen.

R. M. THOMAS,
*Major, Commanding Post.*

Capt. W. P. ANDERSON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**JANUARY 10, 1864.—Skirmish near Mossy Creek, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, First Cavalry Division.*

MOSSY CREEK,
*January* 10, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that a scouting party from the Second Brigade to-day surprised one of the enemy's outposts, on the Dandridge road about 6 miles from Mossy Creek, and killed 4, including 1 lieutenant, besides making 7 prisoners, without loss.

Very respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., 1st Cav. Div., Dept. of the Cumberland.*

**JANUARY 10–11, 1864.—Scout from near Dandridge to Clark's Ferry, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. William J. Palmer, Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS ANDERSON CAVALRY,
*James Evans' Ford, Tenn., January* 11, 1864—3 p. m.

SIR: I have the honor to report that a small expedition sent out by me last night to Clark's Ferry, 17 miles above this point, on the French Broad, has returned this morning with 7 prisoners, infantry and cavalry, belonging to South Carolina and Tennessee regiments. Two of the prisoners (one a brigade forage master), belonging to Dibrell's brigade, of Armstrong's division, and both on a separate examination, say that their brigade is at Dr. Boyd's, 2 miles from the mouth of Chucky, on the Dandridge road and within half a mile of French Broad River. They also say that the only other brigade in their division (Harrison's) is, they believe, somewhere near Dibrell's; also that their division left Panther Springs nearly a week ago, on Monday or Tuesday.

The forage master is quite well informed, and says he issued forage to 800 men for duty in his brigade; that there are but two brigades in Armstrong's division (Dibrell's and Harrison's) and two in Morgan's; that Harrison's brigade may be a very little larger than Dibrell's; and that one brigade of Morgan's division is not as large as Dibrell's; that his own regiment, the Eighth Tennessee, has 140 men only; that their cavalry horses are in good serviceable condition, getting 24 ears of corn per day now, when on full rations; that all the forage about Panther Springs and Morristown and in the intermediate country to the French Broad and Chucky is exhausted, also on the banks of French Broad and Chucky on the other side, and that they are now relying for forage on this side of the French Broad and Chucky, getting it across by canoes and by fording. He also says that Armstrong's and Morgan's divisions of cavalry were both engaged in the last fight at Mossy Creek. One of the infantry prisoners was acting commissary sergeant of his regiment (the Second South Carolina Infantry, Kershaw's brigade, McLaws' division). His brigade and division were at Russellville when he left them day before yesterday, at which time Hood's division was at Morristown. He came across the river to run a mill near Clark's Ferry, the three mills their division had about Russellville not being sufficient. He confirms the report about McLaws being relieved and sent to Richmond.

I had the honor to send a report to General Elliott yesterday via Headquarters Army of the Ohio, at Knoxville, it being impossible to get it across the river in consequence of the ice. In that report I stated that Armstrong's division of cavalry had probably three brigades. I now believe he has but two, and I do not think Martin's entire cavalry force for duty without Jones' to exceed 4,000, or with Jones' to exceed 6,000. (I inclose a copy of that report.)

Very respectfully, &c.,

WILLIAM J. PALMER.
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieutenant SHAW,
*Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., Cavalry Corps.*

[Inclosure.]

Several citizens from Cocke County, near Parrottsville, who left there yesterday, came to my camp to-day. From them I learned that Longstreet commenced the construction of a pontoon early last week at the Briar Thickets, 3 miles from the Chucky (south side), on the road leading from Morristown to Paint Rock; that day before yesterday a dispatch came to the men in charge to move to the saw-mill at Parrottsville (where they prepared to take the stuff already made yesterday) and to go on with the work. The citizens think the pontoons will be thrown across the Chucky at Easterly's Ferry, 3 miles from Parrottsville on the road to Warrensburg. This is also the road leading to Paint Rock and Warm Springs. The French Broad River is now filled with floating ice, and is not fordable or ferryable.

The rebel cavalry will have to leave East Tennessee for lack of forage, if they are not permitted to get the corn at Beaver Dam and elsewhere on this side of the river.

The bearer is trustworthy. Please send me word by him of our forces.

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**JANUARY 10-16, 1864.—Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to Sunnyside Landing, Ark.**

*Itinerary of the Third Brigade, Third Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, Brig. Gen. Jasper A. Maltby, U. S. Army, commanding, for January,* 1864.*

January 10, the brigade embarked on steamers Madison, Era, and Northerner, and proceeded up the Mississippi River to Sunnyside Landing, 200 miles, to disperse rebel forces that were obstructing navigation, and said to be attempting to cross arms and munitions from the east to the west side. It having been ascertained at Sunnyside that there were no rebel troops on either side of the river within reach of infantry forces, the expedition was abandoned and the brigade returned, reaching Vicksburg on the 16th. The brigade has been in camp at Vicksburg the balance of the month.

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**JANUARY 11, 1864.—Scout to Lexington, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Isaac R. Hawkins, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry.*

PARIS, TENN.,
*January* 14, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that up to last evening I remained at Huntingdon. On the 11th I detached 100 men and sent them to Lexington. They captured some prisoners, and killed 1 guerrilla in the very act of robbing. Captain Beatty brings the intelligence that the Confederates are rapidly concentrating at Jackson; they have for some days been in considerable force near Trezevant, and

*From monthly return.

after leaving Huntingdon I was overtaken by a messenger who stated that there was at McLemoresville and vicinity 1,000 rebels. This must be a concentration of Newsom's men with those previously near Trezevant.

A Colonel Hawkins, from near Nashville, passed Lexington going toward Jackson about three days since, and from all south of Huntingdon there seems to be a general movement in that way, and it is certain that none of Newsom's men went out and that his headquarters were on the 10th at Jackson. When I left Union City I had 262 men. I now have 364, and think with force sufficient to hold the country I could recruit a regiment in a short time. I much need arms, clothing, horses, and horse equipments. I would respectfully suggest that the establishment of a post at Trenton at the earliest practicable moment would be attended by the best of results. A large number, say 70, conscripts have reported to me, and asked to be paroled, in some few cases bringing arms and horses.

It will be totally impracticable for Lieutenant Campbell to reach his regiment by way of Lexington, and he will this day report to Colonel Mills, at Paris, Tenn.

I have the honor, general, to be your obedient servant,

ISAAC R. HAWKINS,
*Colonel, Commanding Seventh Tennessee Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. A. J. SMITH,
*Commanding Third Division, Sixteenth Corps.*

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**JANUARY 11–12, 1864.—Expedition from Maryville up the Little Tennessee River, Tenn.**

*Report of Lieut. Col. Robert Klein, Third Indiana Cavalry.*

HDQRS. THIRD BATTALION, THIRD INDIANA CAVALRY,
*Maryville, Tenn., January* 14, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report the following in regard to a late expedition from my command up the Little Tennessee River, in which I broke up a nest of guerrillas composed of absentees, deserters, and paroled soldiers of the rebel army, and rebel citizens who had been stealing stock and goods from the loyal citizens of Blount and Monroe Counties, and taking the same to North Carolina to sell them. Their force was variously estimated from 50 to 200 strong, camped on both sides of the Tennessee River, at a place known as Chilhowee, 24 miles from this place. I left camp with 100 men on the 11th instant at 3 p. m., and stopped at night at the Harrison Ford, 8 miles from their camp, until next morning, when at early dawn I attempted to throw half my force across the river, which was nearly swimming for a horse all of the way across; current swift, and much mush ice running. Here I lost First Sergt. Bernhard Kraft, Company K, and his horse by drowning, and came near losing more. I was only able to get 28 men across on the best horses. We then moved up the river, on either side, in concert, as fast as the blockaded roads would admit, scattering their pickets and charging into

their camps, routing them completely, capturing 1 captain, 1 first lieutenant, and 21 men, their arms, horses, equipments, &c., without further loss to us. The prisoners have been put in charge of the provost-marshal of this county to forward to General Carter; the horses, arms, and equipments are taken up on my quartermaster's return.

Having no intermediate headquarters to report to, I make this report direct to your headquarters.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT KLEIN,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
*Headquarters Department of the Ohio.*

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**JANUARY 12, 1864.—Skirmish near Mossy Creek, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, First Cavalry Division.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Mossy Creek, Tenn., January* 12, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that the forage detail from the Second Brigade to-day drove back one of the enemy's outposts, for the purpose of foraging behind it. Killed 1 and captured 15 prisoners, without loss.

Very respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Cavalry Division, Dept. Cumberland.*

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**JANUARY 13, 1864.—Skirmish at Ragland Mills, Bath County, Ky.**

*Report of Capt. William P. Anderson, Asst. Adjt. Gen. U. S. Army.*

LEXINGTON, KY., *January* 15, 1864.

GENERAL: On the 10th instant Col. J. M. Brown, Forty-fifth Regiment Kentucky Infantry, stationed at Mount Sterling, sent a party of 12 enlisted men, under command of Lieut. Robert H. Wilson, of his regiment, on reconnoitering service. Hearing of a party of 35 guerrillas being encamped at Ragland Mills, Bath County, Ky., Lieutenant Wilson attacked them at daylight on the morning of the 13th, taking 13 of their number. Lieutenant Wilson's loss was but 1 horse killed.

W. P. ANDERSON.

General POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

**JANUARY 13, 1864.—Skirmish near Collierville, Tenn.**

*Report of Maj. Ira R. Gifford, Ninth Illinois Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS NINTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
*Collierville, Tenn., January* 13, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that in pursuance of orders from your headquarters, I moved out on the road to Pleasant Hill with a battalion of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, numbering about 60 men; while crossing the Nonconnah we heard firing about 1 mile to our left. I moved over the stream as rapidly as possible, the crossing being very bad, and before the command had crossed the firing seemed to be coming toward us. I ordered the advance company forward about 60 rods to a road crossing at right angle, where I saw a small party of soldiers pass at full speed. I knew them to be our own men by their uniform. I then ordered a halt, dismounted two companies, and moved forward in direction of the firing, sending one company around on our left flank mounted. We had advanced about 100 yards through a thicket of brush when we met the enemy coming toward us, numbering from 50 to 100 men, and within 50 yards of us. I then opened fire on them and emptied many saddles, the enemy falling back in great confusion, leaving 1 man mortally wounded on the field, 5 horses, 5 carbines and revolvers, together with 4 prisoners out of the 5 they had previously taken from the command sent out previous to our being ordered out.

I skirmished on through the woods about three-quarters of a mile, then mounted my men and pursued the enemy about 3 miles, and finding they had too much the start, I returned to camp. Our loss, none. From indications on the field the enemy's loss must have been heavy.

I remain your obedient servant,

IRA R. GIFFORD,
*Major Ninth Illinois Cavalry.*

Col. A. G. BRACKETT,
*Commanding Second Brigade.*

Great credit is due company commanders.

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, CAVALRY DIV., 16TH A. C.,
*Collierville, Tenn., January* 14, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded to division headquarters.

It has been ascertained since the fight that 1 rebel was killed and 7 were wounded. Private James A. Montgomery, of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, Company M, is missing. The party which Major Gifford attacked was the same one which fired into the railroad train on the 12th instant.

ALBERT G. BRACKETT,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

**JANUARY 13–14, 1864.—Affair at Sevierville (13th) and skirmish at Schultz' Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th).**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, U. S. Army, commanding Military Division of the Mississippi.

No. 2.—Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio.

No. 3.—Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Department of the Ohio.

No. 4.—Col. William J. Palmer, Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.

No. 5.—Col. John B. Palmer, Fifty-eighth North Carolina Infantry, commanding Western District of North Carolina.

No. 1.

*Report of Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, U. S. Army, commanding Military Division of the Mississippi.*

NASHVILLE, TENN.,
*January* 17, 1864. (Rec'd 5.30 p. m. 18th.)

On the 14th instant General Vance made a raid toward Sevierville and captured a train of 23 wagons. He was promptly pursued by Colonel Palmer, who recaptured the wagons and took 1 ambulance loaded with medicines, 150 saddle-horses, and 100 stand of arms. Vance and his assistant adjutant-general and inspector-general are among the prisoners captured.

U. S. GRANT,
*Major-General.*

Major-General HALLECK,
*General-in-Chief.*

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No 2.

*Report of Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio.*

KNOXVILLE, TENN.,
*January* 16, 1864.

I have the honor to report that on the 14th General Vance, brother of Governor Vance, of North Carolina, with 300 cavalry, made a raid toward Sevierville and captured a train of 23 wagons sent out from Knoxville for forage. General Sturgis immediately ordered Colonel Palmer with the Fifteenth Pennsylvania (Anderson Cavalry) to pursue them. He did so with such activity that he came up with the party as they had halted to feed, 23 miles from Sevierville, surprised them, recaptured all the wagons, drivers, and animals, and in addition a fine ambulance filled with medical stores, 150 saddle-horses, and 100 stand of arms. General Vance, with his adjutant-general and inspector-general, were among the prisoners. The remainder of the rebel party broke and fled to the mountains, closely pursued by the Union Home Guards. General Sturgis speaks in high terms of Colonel Palmer's activity and skill. As he has exhibited these qualities on several occasions before, I recommend him for appointment

as brigadier-general, and respectfully ask that you indorse the recommendation as a reward for what Colonel Palmer has done and as an incentive to other officers to imitate his example.

J. G. FOSTER,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

General U. S. GRANT.

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No. 3.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Department of the Ohio.*

DANDRIDGE, *January* 15, 1864.

I have just word from Colonel Palmer, belonging to General Elliott's command, and whom I had sent after a party 300 strong, under command of General Vance, a brother of the Governor of North Carolina, that he overtook them on Cosby Creek, 23 miles from Sevierville, at 3 p. m. on the 14th instant. They had rested to feed their animals, and were about to take the road to Newport when he charged them, routing their entire command. He captured 52 prisoners, including General Vance, his adjutant-general, and inspector-general; also about 150 saddle-horses and over 100 stand of arms, besides destroying a large number of arms on the road. He also captured a fine ambulance filled with medical stores and provisions the rebels had picked up on their retreat from Sevierville. He also recaptured all the wagons and mules, together with the wagon-master and 23 other prisoners that were taken with the trains captured from us near Knoxville.

The Home Guards are pursuing the dismounted rebels, who fled to the mountains, and many of them will no doubt be captured. The entire command is dispersed, and the rebels not captured will no doubt return to their homes.

The enemy had 2 men wounded. Our loss was nothing. The prisoners are on their way to Knoxville, and the train has been returned to its wagon-master. General Elliott speaks in high terms of Colonel Palmer's operations, and I would recommend him to your special consideration.

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry Corps.*

Maj. Gen. J. G. FOSTER.

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No. 4.

*Report of Col. William J. Palmer, Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

HDQRS. CHIEF OF CAVALRY, DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Dandridge, Tenn., January* 15, 1864.

Capt. W. C. RAWOLLE,
*A. A. A. G., Hdqrs. Chief of Cav., Army of the Ohio:*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to inclose a report just received from Col. W. J. Palmer, Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry. Colonel Palmer and command deserve honorable mention for their gallant conduct.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. L. ELLIOTT,
*Brigadier-General and Chief of Cavalry, D. C.*

HEADQUARTERS ANDERSON CAVALRY,
*Near Sevierville, January* 15, 1864.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report, for the information of the general commanding, that on learning that a cavalry force of the enemy from North Carolina, under General Vance, had entered Sevierville on the evening of the 13th and captured a train of eighteen wagons, I started in pursuit at 3 o'clock the next morning from my camp on the French Broad, 4 miles from Dandridge, with detachments of the Anderson Cavalry and the Tenth Ohio Cavalry, amounting in all to less than 200 men.

After a march of 30 miles we found the enemy on Cosby Creek, 23 miles from Sevierville, and within about 5 miles of the Great Smoky Mountains.

They had rested to feed their animals, and were about to take the road thence to Newport. I immediately charged them in column of fours, routing their entire command, which fled in the utmost disorder, throwing away their guns, belts, blankets, saddle-bags, &c., and most of them quitting their horses.

We captured 52 prisoners, including Brigadier-General Vance, brother of Governor Vance, of North Carolina, and a captain and lieutenant of his staff (the assistant adjutant-general and acting inspector-general of the command); also about 150 saddled horses, and over 100 stand of arms, besides destroying a large number of arms on the road.

We also captured a fine ambulance filled with medical stores, of which we were sadly in need; also a quantity of bacon, salt, meal, &c., picked up by the rebels on their retreat from Sevierville.

We also recaptured all the wagons and mules, together with the wagon-master and 23 other prisoners, that were taken with the train. Four of these were loyal citizens who had been tied to prevent their escape.

The enemy had 2 men wounded. Our loss was nothing. I have sent Home Guards to scour the mountains for dismounted rebels, of whom doubtless a considerable number will be captured.

The entire force is dissipated, and the men not captured will probably return to their homes.

General Vance's assistant adjutant-general informs me that the force we attacked was about 300 men.

Colonel Thomas, with 150 Indians, composing the rest of the invading force, with two pieces of artillery and ten to twelve wagons, remained back at Gatlinburg (14 miles from Sevierville), where he will probably remain until he hears of the defeat of Vance.

If some fresh cavalry can be sent here immediately, these Indians and guns can be captured.

General Vance informs me that he left Asheville, N. C., with his command on the 8th instant, and that his men have been in the saddle ever since.

He came through Waynesville, Quallatown, and Gatlinburg. Nearly all of them had new horse equipments, and all were well clad. I have forwarded the prisoners to Knoxville, and returned the train to its wagon-master.

I am, lieutenant, yours, very respectfully,

WM. J. PALMER,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieutenant SHAW,
*Acting Assistant-Adjutant General.*

No. 5.

*Report of Col. John B. Palmer, Fifty-eighth North Carolina Infantry, commanding Western District of North Carolina.*

HDQRS. WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA,
*Asheville, January* 19, 1864.

COLONEL: I regret to state that positive information has just been received that Brig. Gen. R. B. Vance, lately commanding this district, is a prisoner in the hands of the enemy. He was captured at Schultz' Mill, on Cosby Creek, in Cocke County, Tenn., on Thursday afternoon last.

General Vance crossed Smoky Mountain from Jackson County, in this State, to East Tennessee on Tuesday, the 12th instant, with one section of artillery, 375 cavalry, and 100 infantry. Leaving Col. W. H. Thomas and Lieut. Col. J. L. Henry with the balance of the force at Gatlinburg, 4 miles below the Smoky Mountain, General Vance proceeded with 180 cavalry to Sevierville, where he, on Wednesday at 3 p. m., captured a train of seventeen wagons, with which he started for Newport, Tenn., via Schultz' Mill.

At this latter place he, on Thursday, about 2 p. m., stopped and remained about one and a half hours. Here he was surprised by a force of the enemy's cavalry, estimated at about 400, coming from their camp 6 miles below Sevierville, and himself, 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, and 37 privates, together with about 100 horses, 1 ambulance, &c., captured. The captured wagons and teams were also retaken by the enemy. There being no rear guard or pickets out, the enemy were enabled to approach within 100 yards before they were discovered. The surprise was complete.

Col. W. H. Thomas, commanding the party left at Gatlinburg, had been ordered to fall back with his infantry and to send Lieutenant-Colonel Henry with his cavalry and artillery to Schultz' Mill, where they were directed to take up a position and await the arrival of General Vance. (See copy* of order marked A.) Lieutenant-Colonel Henry, commanding the cavalry and artillery, replied that he thought it best to fall back with Colonel Thomas, and failed to move as directed. (See statement* marked B, by Lieutenant Davidson, General Vance's acting assistant adjutant-general.) Lieutenant-Colonel Henry, however, proceeded to Schultz' Mill on Friday, and the enemy having retired passed safely on to Newport, and is now on his way up French Broad.

It is believed that if Lieutenant-Colonel Henry had obeyed the orders sent him, or even without his force if precautions had been taken to prevent surprise, this calamity could have been avoided and the train saved, as the country immediately above Schultz' Mill is admirably adapted to defense.

I shall feel it incumbent upon me to place Lieutenant-Colonel Henry under arrest for disobedience of orders, to await the decision of the general commanding as to whether he shall be tried by the general court-martial now in session at this place.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. B. PALMER,
*Colonel, Commanding District.*

Col. G. W. BRENT,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Army of Tennessee.*

*Not found.

[First indorsement.]

FEBRUARY 2, 1864.

Respectfully submitted for the information of the President, who may feel interested to learn the cause of General Vance's capture. It seems to have resulted from disobedience of orders by another and lack of due precaution by himself.

J. A. SEDDON.

[Second indorsement.]

WAR OFFICE:

The officer being in captivity, no action is practicable which seems proper.

J. D.

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**JANUARY 14, 1864.—Scout from Collierville, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Albert G. Brackett, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, commanding brigade.*

COLLIERVILLE, TENN., *January* 14, 1864.

Dispatch received. I sent out a scout to-day under Major Bishop. He has returned. Went as far as Dudy's Mill on the Coldwater. On his return went within 2 miles of Quinn's Mill. No enemy there since the 50 or 60 were in this section yesterday. They returned south of the Coldwater last evening. No indication of an enemy. Major Gifford killed 1 and wounded 7 of those [who] fired upon the train yesterday.

A. G. BRACKETT,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

General GRIERSON.

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**JANUARY 14, 1864.—Scout to Baldwin's Ferry, Big Black River, Miss.**

*Report of Maj. James Ketner, First Kansas Mounted Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST KANSAS MOUNTED INFANTRY,
*January* 15, 1864.

COLONEL: In obedience to your orders of January 14, I took command of Companies A, B, F, and G, in all about 40 men, and proceeded with them to Baldwin's Ferry for the purpose, as ordered, of destroying any and all flat-boats, ferries, or other means of crossing the river that I might find at or in the vicinity of said ferry. On my way to the ferry, and while there, I saw no signs or indications of any enemy, and in fact saw nothing by which the rebels or any one else could cross the river. I then divided my command and sent Lieut. and Adjt. John A. Henry with 10 men up the river. About 1 mile above the ferry he discovered a place where citizens or others had been floating cotton across the river, and about one half mile farther up he discovered on the opposite side of the river a small skiff half full of water and evidently not in use by any one. At Webb's he discovered 6 bales of the cotton that had been floated across the river from Baldwin's Ferry. Both up and down the river there is no road, so that we were compelled to pick our way through undergrowth, over fallen trees, and through swamps and almost impassable marshes. With the remaining 30 men I started down the river, but could not get to the river at any point, and after traveling

over about 6 miles of territory below the ferry I returned to camp without having seen any of the enemy or even hearing of them. Citizens through the country all tell me that no rebels have been over the river since the raid about Christmas. I found no boats of any description, nor could I find any evidences of crossing at any point. Could learn of only two points of crossing, to wit, Baldwin's and Hall's Ferries. I would suggest as the only feasible plan at present that a skiff be manned at the bridge and sent down the river. I am satisfied that if there are any private ferries, flat-boats, skiffs, or other means of crossing the river they can in this way be discovered; and if, which is possible, although not very probable, the party should be surprised on their way down, if necessary they can abandon the skiff on the west side of the river and escape, and thus accomplish the object of their mission. The river is now very high, and I am of the opinion that no rebels are crossing at all.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES KETNER,
*Major, Commanding Detachment.*

Lieut. Col. N. W. SPICER,
*Commanding First Kansas.*

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**JANUARY 16–17, 1864.—Operations about Dandridge, Tenn., including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge.**

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. John G. Parke, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of the Ohio.
No. 3.—Brig. Gen. Washington L. Elliott, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Department of the Cumberland, including operations to January 28.
No. 4.—Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland.
No. 5.—Col. Archibald P. Campbell, Second Michigan Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland.
No. 6.—Col. Thomas J. Jordan, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanding First Brigade.
No. 7.—Lieut. Col. Benjamin Smith, Second Michigan Cavalry.
No. 8.—Maj. Edward G. Savage, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry.
No. 9.—Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade.
No. 10.—Col. Frank Wolford, First Kentucky Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Army of the Ohio.
No. 11.—Col. Israel Garrard, Seventh Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Cavalry Division, Army of the Ohio.
No. 12.—Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

*Report of Maj. Gen. John G. Parke, U. S. Army.*

STRAWBERRY PLAINS,
*January* 18, 1864—1 p. m.

I sent you a dispatch yesterday evening from Dandridge that Longstreet was immediately in our front with a large force of infantry.

*See also Foster's report, pp. 41, 45.

On the day previous Sturgis made a move on Kimbrough's Cross-Roads. He met but little opposition until he reached the cross-roads. There he found infantry in force, said to be a division. While this force was moving out to that road the enemy's cavalry came in on the Bend of Chucky road and drove Wolford into the infantry supports. On yesterday morning we found the enemy in line of battle 3 or 4 miles from town. During the day General Sheridan built a bridge of wagons at the bend below town and crossed Harker's brigade, but to his mortification he found at dark that he was on an island, and that it would require four more hours to complete this bridge. While the bridge was being constructed and scarcely finished, they made a firm assault on our whole line, both columns and lines of infantry being invisible. Our loss was severe, considering the short duration of the affair.

We have prisoners from Hampton Legion, Hood's division. One of our men, taken prisoner during the siege of Knoxville, escaped from them three days ago, at Morristown. He reports that all their infantry had left Morristown, and that he also saw them at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads at 2 o'clock yesterday. This attack, this force, and proximity to our position, taken in consideration with the unfinished state of the bridge, determined [me] to retire at once upon Strawberry Plains, and the movement is now in progress. I have had no definite report from General Willich, who commands the rear guard, but the general report is that the enemy is not pressing. They have their cavalry on our flanks. I have ordered the force at Mossy Creek to retire, and our cavalry is retiring with us to the plains. The ford of the French Broad was considered rather uncertain, and risks for night unknown.

I will probably go into the plains this evening. I will remain here until I hear definitely from the rear guard. Please send me orders at Strawberry Plains for disposition and movements of troops.

Very respectfully,

JOHN G. PARKE,
*Major-General.*

General FOSTER.

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No. 2.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of the Ohio.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
*Dandridge, Tenn., January* 16, 1864—11 p. m.

GENERAL: I moved my cavalry forward this morning with the intention of occupying Kimbrough's Cross-Roads. Colonel Garrard's division moved on the Bull's Gap road, followed by General Elliott's division. Colonel Wolford's division advanced on the Bend of Chucky road. Four miles out Colonel Wolford encountered the mass of the enemy's cavalry. To relieve him we pressed the harder toward the cross-roads, where we encountered a division of the enemy's infantry (which was moved there last night), with artillery. In the mean time I had ordered Colonel Wolford to fall back on this place if hard pressed. It was impossible to aid Colonel Wolford from the main column without returning to within 2 or 3 miles of this place, which was done.

I regret most deeply our inability to secure these cross-roads, as I deem it the most important point in our front; but the enemy being also awake to its importance has occupied it with infantry, as I feared he would, and rendered it impossible for me to drive him out with cavalry.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry Corps.*

General FOSTER.

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HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
*Maryville, Tenn., February* 4, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the cavalry of this department near Dandridge on the 16th and 17th of January, 1864:

My command, consisting of Colonels Wolford and Garrard's divisions, cavalry, Department of the Ohio, and Colonel McCook's cavalry division, Department of the Cumberland, was moved from Mossy Creek to Dandridge on the 14th of January for convenience of forage and subsistence, driving in the enemy's pickets then posted on the eastern skirts of the town. The troops being continually on the march and no previous opportunity offering to supply them, the 15th was devoted to issuing necessary clothing and boots. On the 16th of January, the enemy's cavalry being in close proximity, I ordered Colonel Wolford with his division to move forward on the Bend of Chucky road, to secure the country as far as Long Creek, while Colonels Garrard and McCook with their divisions advanced on the Bull's Gap road to Kimbrough's Cross-Roads, 9 miles from Dandridge. I soon found that the enemy had massed his entire cavalry force on the Chucky road, 5 miles from Dandridge, while Colonel Garrard encountered a division of infantry (moved down from Morristown the previous night) in position at the cross-roads. Colonel Wolford becoming heavily pressed, I ordered Colonel McCook with his division to move over to his assistance, and the enemy was repulsed from the position taken from Colonel Wolford.

The object of the reconnaissance being accomplished, Colonel Garrard was ordered to return, and also placed in position protecting the Bull's Gap road. Night coming on, Colonel Wolford was ordered to take the right of our line on the Hays' Ferry road, his right resting on the French Broad River, 2 miles above Dandridge, Colonel Garrard's division in the center covering the Chucky road, connecting with Colonel Wolford's left and Colonel McCook's right, whose division held the Bull's Gap and Mossy Creek roads.

Receiving information about noon on the 17th that the enemy was no doubt preparing for an attack, I ordered my command to form line of battle in the order above indicated and await his advance.

At 4 p. m. the enemy drove in one regiment of our infantry, picketing inside of my vedettes on our extreme right, and advanced with great fury on our left, attacking Colonel McCook's division. A battery was then pushed forward by the enemy, shelling our center, to cover the advance of his strong line of infantry.

My whole line was now engaged, and the regiment of our infantry in front of Colonel Garrard compelled to give way, so that the cav-

alry was on this occasion engaging the entire force of the enemy's cavalry and three brigades of infantry of Johnson's and Hood's divisions.

The fighting was desperate, our troops charging repeatedly and driving the enemy from his positions, our troops not falling back to the ground held by them in the afternoon until after dark, when the enemy moved up strong lines of pickets close to our lines.

I would respectfully call your attention to the report of Col. E. M. McCook with reference to the commanding officer of an infantry regiment refusing him assistance at a moment when the exertion and co-operation of every one was needed to avoid a terrible disaster.

Returning from the field after dark, I found the infantry and trains already moving in the direction of Strawberry Plains, and was ordered by Major-General Parke to retire the cavalry on the Dandridge and New Market road, crossing at McKinney's Ford, when the command encamped on the north side of the Holston on the 18th.

I would call your attention to the reports of division commanders herewith inclosed.

The following is a recapitulation of casualties on the 16th and 17th of January: Eight men killed, 3 officers and 55 men wounded, and 17 men missing; total, 83.

I am, general, very respectfully,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry Corps.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

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No. 3.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Washington L. Elliott, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Department of the Cumberland, including operations to January 28.*

HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF CAVALRY,
*Fair Garden, Tenn., January 22, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the troops of my command on the 16th and 17th near Dandridge, Tenn.:

As yet, I have not received the report of Col. E. M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding two of the brigades of First Division (First, Col. A. P. Campbell, Second Michigan Cavalry, commanding, and Second, Col. O. H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding), and of the Eighteenth Indiana Battery, Captain Lilly commanding.

On the 16th, I was ordered by General S. D. Sturgis, U. S. Volunteers, commanding Cavalry, Army of the Ohio, to march on the Bull's Gap road to support Colonel Garrard's Second Division Cavalry, Army of the Ohio. When about 6 miles from Dandridge my command was ordered to march to the support of Colonel Wolford's First Division Cavalry, Army of the Ohio, engaged with the enemy on the Chucky Bend road. It being impracticable from the condition of the fields and by-roads to march directly across, my

command was countermarched, and with First Brigade and Lilly's battery the enemy was attacked on our left (his right), driving him from a ridge which commanded the camps of my command. After about one and one-half hours' fighting darkness stopped the pursuit and we held the ridge.

The force of the enemy engaged consisted of cavalry (dismounted) with artillery.

On the 17th, the enemy in considerable force attacked a regiment of infantry on picket near my camp. The picket from the Second Brigade charged his advance, taking about 15 prisoners of Hampton Legion (infantry).

The Second Brigade occupied the ridge taken on the 16th, but could not hold it entirely against the superior force of infantry, and after about two hours' fighting, darkness again left us in possession of part of the ridge, with our dismounted skirmishers confronting the infantry skirmishers of the enemy, supported, as I was informed by the prisoners taken, by four regiments of infantry in line of battle, with artillery and a division of infantry in reserve.

In accordance with orders my command marched about 10 p. m. for New Market, crossing Holston River at McKinney's Ford, thence via Knoxville to this place.

The Fifteenth Pennsylvania with detachment of Tenth Ohio Cavalry, Col. Wm. J. Palmer commanding, had been detached from my command to the south side of the French Broad, where they captured Brigadier-General Vance and staff with 37 enlisted men, 150 saddle-horses, destroyed about 100 guns, and recaptured a train of 18 government wagons and trains and 23 enlisted men.

The First East Tennessee Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow commanding, was also detached to re-enforce Colonel Palmer. Of its operations I have as yet no report. The officers and men of my command behaved with their usual gallantry. Those of my personal staff and the staff of the cavalry command rendered me much assistance.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. ELLIOTT,

*Brig. Gen. and Chief of Cav., Department of the Cumberland.*

Capt. W. C. RAWOLLE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF CAVALRY,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Chattanooga, Tenn., February 2*, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to inclose copy of report of Col. W. J. Palmer, Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, of January 15, 1864, and of my letter transmitting the same; also copy of my report* of operations of my command on north side of French Broad River, near Dandridge, Tenn., on the 16th and 17th January, 1864.

Leaving Dandridge about 10 p. m. on 17th, on the 19th I received at Knoxville, en route for Sevierville, a communication from Brigadier-General Sturgis stating that "some 4,000 of the rebel cavalry are reported to be on the south side of the river (French Broad) and

* See p. 81.

it is desirable to move out as soon as and as far as practicable;" also that he could not leave then, trusting that I would "take charge of this matter." My command was compelled for want of subsistence and forage to march from Dandridge to near Sevierville, fording the Holston above Strawberry Plains and crossing on pontoon bridge at Knoxville, a march of about 50 miles.

On the 20th, I received a communication from General Sturgis saying:

There is no remaining doubt as to the fact that Longstreet's forces are still in the vicinity of Morristown and no intentions are entertained by him of advancing. The question then with us is one purely of forage, and every mile gained now by us in that direction by rapid marching will be so much the less to fight for. You will please, therefore, push as vigorously forward in the general direction of the French Broad as is consistent with the necessary rest and feeding of your men and animals.

On the 21st, I received reports from loyal citizens that the rebel cavalry had crossed, or were crossing, the French Broad in large force near Dandridge. In order to ascertain the truth of the report, after consultation with Colonel Palmer, more familiar with all roads and fords than the residents appeared to be, two strong columns under Colonels McCook and Palmer, communicating with each other, were pushed forward in the direction of Dandridge, driving small parties of rebels from the fords and holding them, thereby securing the forage our horses so much needed. Wolford's division of the cavalry, of the Army of the Ohio, was ordered by me to Fair Garden, at the junction of the Dandridge and Sevierville road, with the Newport and Sevierville road.

I ordered Garrard's division of cavalry, Army of the Ohio, to move on the Newport road, leaving one brigade at Little Pigeon, and to guard the two fords near mouth of Boyd's Creek. The foregoing disposition of the troops was made with a view to holding the fords, securing the supplies in the rich Dutch and Irish bottoms of the French Broad and Chucky Rivers—in the vicinity of which two forage trains of the rebels were captured—and if too hard pressed by the enemy's infantry, should he succeed in crossing the river, to fall back in the direction of Maryville, the road to Knoxville being very bad and that place being scarce of subsistence and destitute of forage.

On the 22d, at Fair Garden, I received from General Sturgis' headquarters a communication stating the general commanding hardly expected the troops to be as far advanced as they are at present, considering the very bad condition of the roads.

On the 22d, by Special Orders, No. 21, Extract 21, headquarters Department of the Ohio, January 21, 1864, at my request I was relieved from duty in the Department of the Ohio and ordered to report to the major-general commanding the Department of the Cumberland.

Leaving Fair Garden on the 23d, I had the honor to report at headquarters of department on the 28th January.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. ELLIOTT,
*Brigadier General, U. S. Vols., and Chief of Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. W. D. WHIPPLE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.*

HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF CAVALRY,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Chattanooga, Tenn., February* 21, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to inclose herewith copies of reports of Col. E. M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Division, and Col. O. H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, First Division, of the affair near Dandridge, Tenn., on the 16th and 17th ultimo, which could not be obtained in time to forward with my report to Brig. Gen. S. D. Sturgis, of the 22d ultimo—a copy of which was forwarded to you on the 2d instant. I also inclose herewith copies of reports of Col. E. M. McCook, commanding First Division; Col. A. P. Campbell, Second Michigan Cavalry, commanding First Brigade; Col. O. H. La Grange, commanding Second Brigade, First Division, and of Capt. Eli Lilly, Eighteenth Indiana Battery, attached to the cavalry command, of the actions with Martin's two divisions of cavalry on the 27th and 28th ultimo, near Fair Garden, Tenn. The services rendered by these troops justly entitles them to be regarded as cavalry, and every effort should be made to keep them well mounted and equipped.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. L. ELLIOTT,
*Brig. Gen., U. S. Volunteers, and Chief of Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. WM. D. WHIPPLE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 4.

*Reports of Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Maryville, Tenn., February* 2, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the report of Col. O. H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry,* commanding the Second Brigade of my division in the action near Dandridge, Tenn., January 17, 1864, together with detailed lists of the casualties:

The First Brigade, Col. A. P. Campbell commanding, was encamped on the Mossy Creek road when the engagement commenced, and was removed from its position and placed in line on the left of the Morristown road connecting with the left of Colonel La Grange's line, but was at no time engaged.

The report of Colonel La Grange is sufficiently comprehensive to furnish statement of the positions and incidents of the action, and I have nothing to add to it but my expression of admiration for the determination and great courage of the officers and men of the Second Brigade, which enabled them, acting as dismounted cavalry, encumbered with their led animals, to successfully repulse, in a wooded position, largely superior numbers of the flower of the enemy's infantry.

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* See p. 90.

I have to note among the casualties of the day the severe and dangerous wounding of Capt. W. W. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, who fell while leading his men in a desperate hand-to-hand fight. He was a young officer of distinguished bravery and great promise.

The prisoners taken on this occasion represented the different regiments of the Hampton Legion, Longstreet's corps. I retained possession of the wooded eminence, which was the object of the afternoon's fight, until 11 p. m., when, in accordance with orders from General Elliott, I retired with my command over the Mossy Creek and New Market road, bringing off all my transportation, wounded, and killed. It is the first time that my division has been engaged in a hand-to-hand conflict with the enemy's infantry, and the result gives me increased confidence in their ability to sustain themselves under any circumstances against any force.

I called upon the officer commanding a regiment of infantry on picket in the rear of where we were fighting to assist us by placing his men in the position on our left afterward occupied by my first brigade. His response was that "he was placed there on picket and had no orders." He did not give us the assistance desired. Part of Colonel Cameron's infantry brigade came up to our support between 8 and 9 o'clock, after all was quiet, but were not engaged and were withdrawn before the cavalry. Our casualties as shown by the lists inclosed were: Two men killed, 3 officers and 26 men wounded, and 17 men missing; aggregate killed, wounded, and missing, 48. The enemy's loss far exceeded ours and must have been very heavy as their advances were made in solid heavy columns, exposed for a long time to the deliberate fire of our men—their colors fell three times.

We captured 21 prisoners, and the enemy reported to citizens in Dandridge that their total loss was 340.

I also transmit list of casualties* in the affair of January 16, near Dandridge.

I am, captain, your very obedient servant,

EDWARD M. McCOOK,
*Colonel Second Indiana Cavalry, Commanding Division.*

Capt. W. C. RAWOLLE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 5.

*Report of Col. Archibald P. Campbell, Second Michigan Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland.*

DANDRIDGE, TENN.,
*January* 16, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of to-day of the First Cavalry Division. During the illness of Colonel McCook I assumed command of the division, and in obedience to orders from the general commanding moved my command, with Col. O. H. La Grange's (Second) brigade in advance, on the Morristown road to support Colonel Garrard, commanding Cavalry Division, Army of the Ohio. After I had proceeded about 5

* Omitted.

miles in the direction of Kimbrough's Cross-Roads, I received a dispatch from Colonel Garrard stating that he had come in contact with a large force of the enemy, and was being driven back. I immediately commenced forming my command in order to receive the enemy and cover the retreat of Colonel Garrard, when I was ordered by the general commanding to withdraw my command from the Morristown road [and] hasten to the support of Colonel Wolford on the Chucky road. Colonel Jordan, commanding First Brigade, being in rear of Colonel La Grange's brigade, was hurried back in the direction of Dandridge until he arrived at a road communicating with the Chucky road from the Morristown road. Upon his arrival at this point, about 1½ miles from Dandridge, it was found that the enemy had driven Wolford's division back in disorder nearly to Fain's Factory, within 1 mile of Dandridge, and that the command was cut off from Dandridge by the right of the enemy's line. Colonel Jordan immediately disposed of his brigade, and placed in position one section of Captain Lilly's Eighteenth Indiana Battery and attacked the enemy vigorously on the flank, and by the time the Second Brigade got into position cleared the Dandridge road and established communications with Colonel Wolford again. The entire command now moved forward under a heavy fire from the enemy, who had secured a strong position on a wooded hill, and Colonels La Grange and Jordan, leading in person their dismounted men, cleared the hill at a charge, driving the enemy full a mile and completely turning his right flank. Colonel Wolford's command on the Chucky road not advancing, and night setting in, and my orders being in the outset merely to establish communications with Colonel Wolford and maintain my position, it was deemed imprudent to further expose my right flank by lengthening the gap between my advancing line and that of Colonel Wolford's, who was not advancing.

To Colonels Jordan and La Grange I am under many obligations for the consummate skill displayed in managing their commands and the example set to their men.

I am also indebted to the members of Colonel McCook's (division) staff for their activity and energy during the engagement.

For list of casualties and a more detailed account of the operations I forward herewith the reports of brigade commanders.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. P. CAMPBELL,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. J. E. JACOBS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure.]

*List of casualties of the First Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland, in the engagement of January* 16, 1864, *near Dandridge, Tenn.*

| Command. | Killed. | Wounded. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| First Brigade *a* | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Second Brigade *b* | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Aggregate | 2 | 5 | 7 |

*a* All enlisted men of the Ninth Pennsylvania.
*b* One man killed of the Fourth Indiana and 1 wounded of the First Wisconsin.

No. 6.

*Report of Col. Thomas J. Jordan, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanding First Brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION CAVALRY,
*Cleveland, Tenn., March* 28, 1864.

CAPTAIN: On account of the retreat from Dandridge, Tenn., and my subsequent illness, no report has heretofore been made from this brigade of the action of the 16th of January. I now beg leave, as I was in command of the brigade that day, to make the following report:

On the morning of the 16th of January, 1864, the First Division of Cavalry, Army of the Ohio, under the command of Col. F. Wolford, First Kentucky Cavalry, was ordered to feel the enemy and make a reconnaissance on the Chucky Bend road. At 1 p. m. the First Division of Cavalry, Army of the Cumberland, commanded by Col. A. P. Campbell, with Lilly's battery (Eighteenth Indiana), was ordered to march to the flank of the enemy, on the Morristown road. After marching some 5 miles it became evident from the firing that the enemy was fast driving Colonel Wolford back toward Dandridge. By order of Colonel Campbell the division was moved back toward Dandridge to support Colonel Wolford, each regiment countermarching, thus throwing the Second Regiment Michigan Cavalry to the front, followed by the battery, and it by the Ninth Regiment Pennsylvania Cavalry. When within 2 miles of Dandridge the head of the column was moved on a road to the left toward the Chucky Bend road. We had not proceeded more than half a mile in this direction when I came up with Colonel Wolford's division in full retreat, galloping away from the enemy, leaving my flank entirely exposed. I at once ordered Lieut. Col. Benj. Smith, commanding the Second Michigan Cavalry, to dismount his men, move to the brow of the hill, and hold the enemy in check, if possible, till the remainder of the brigage could be brought to his assistance. I at once ordered the battery to be brought forward and placed in position, and the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, Maj. E. G. Savage commanding, to form on the left of the Second Michigan. While these formations were being made the Second Michigan Cavalry was hotly engaged, and, though outnumbered five to one, by steady, unflinching bravery held the enemy, though flushed with their victory over Wolford, in check. For some reason the artillery did not come promptly into action (it is said that something had broken in their harness), but by the time that the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry was properly in position it came up. I at once ordered it onto a hill immediately in our rear, and in a few moments it opened with such effect as to silence the battery of the enemy. As the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry came into line it was exposed to a galling fire from the enemy, occupying a dense woods within 200 yards of its front, and 2 men were wounded at the first discharge of the enemy. I at once ordered the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry to advance and drive the enemy from their cover. By this time the whole line was formed, with the Second Indiana to the left of the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and advanced under a most galling fire, but, nothing daunted, our men pushed forward, and in five minutes the enemy began to retire, but still keeping up a steady fire, which they maintained till driven from the woods, when they re-

treated in wild confusion. We followed the enemy about 1 mile, when, night coming on, we were ordered back to camp.

I cannot speak too highly of the bravery displayed by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, of the Second Michigan Cavalry, and Maj. E. G. Savage, of the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry. To the first is due the honor of checking a victorious enemy with a mere handful of his regiment, and to the second of leading the charge of the Ninth Pennsylvania while driving the enemy from their strong position in the woods.

In this action the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry had 2 killed and 4 wounded. In the Second Michigan there was no loss, though for more than one hour they sustained their position under a hot fire of the enemy. The First East Tennessee Cavalry had a few days before been detailed upon other duty, and was not in the action.

Respectfully submitted.

THOS. J. JORDAN,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

[Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*]

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No. 7.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Benjamin Smith, Second Michigan Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND MICHIGAN CAVALRY,
*Cleveland, Tenn., March* 25, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my regiment in the action of January 16, 1864:

Received orders to march to the assistance of the First Division Cavalry, Army of the Ohio. Marched on the Morristown road 5 miles, countermarched and dismounted to check the enemy, which we did; laid in line of battle until dark; returned to camp. No loss in killed, wounded, or missing.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. SMITH,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieut. T. A. NICHOLS,
*A. A. A. G., First Brig., First Div. Cav.*

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No. 8.

*Report of Maj. Edward G. Savage, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS NINTH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY,
*Columbus, East Tenn., March* 25, 1864.

LIEUTENANT: According to orders I send you the following copy of a report made by me to brigade headquarters on the 17th January, 1864:

HEADQUARTERS NINTH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY,
*Near Dandridge, Tenn., January* 17, 1864.

LIEUTENANT: In obedience to orders received yesterday, January 16, at 12.30 p. m., I marched my regiment out on the Morristown road, with Second Michigan Cavalry and one section of Captain

Lilly's battery, a distance of 4 miles from camp, when the column halted, and immediately after orders reached me to countermarch the regiment and march in rear of Second Michigan Cavalry and section of Eighteenth Indiana Battery; when about 2 miles from town column moved on road running to the left of main road. The regiment was ordered to form line of battle to the right of former road, and move forward to the top of the hill. Companies G and I were ordered to the left and Company H to the right as skirmishers. Immediately after the regiment was ordered to dismount and fight on foot. The order being promptly obeyed, the line of skirmishers advanced and took position in a corn-field in front of the Fourth Indiana Cavalry. The enemy being posted in the woods, opened a brisk fire. Received orders to move by the left flank, and while moving toward the woods on our left Sergeant Beighell and Private Wallace, of Company M, were wounded. After a sharp skirmish of one hour or more with the enemy the skirmishers were ordered to move forward, which they did, dislodging the enemy and driving them a distance of half a mile or more. In the action the regiment sustained the following loss: One killed, 4 wounded (1 mortally, since died).

Respectfully reported.

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I am, very respectfully, &c.,

E. G. SAVAGE,
*Major, Commanding Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

Lieut. THOMAS A. NICHOLS,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 9.

*Reports of Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Dandridge, East Tenn., January* 17, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that on the 16th instant the Second Brigade moved forward in advance of the First Division to a point 6 miles northeast from Dandridge on the Morristown road, for the purpose of supporting Colonel Wolford's division, then engaged with the enemy. Colonel Wolford's right having been driven back almost to the town, the command was ordered to return by the same road, and engaged the enemy on the right of the Morristown road and assisted the other troops of the cavalry command in driving back the enemy, who was at one time considerably confused by a vigorous advance of battalions of the Second and Fourth Indiana, and it was thought that his artillery might have been captured had instructions permitted the bringing forward of proper supports for those battalions. Our loss was 1 man killed and 1 mortally wounded; several horses were also killed. Enemy's loss unknown.

Very respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, First Cavalry Division.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, FIRST CAVALRY DIV., D. C.,
*Near Sevierville, Tenn., January* 20, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I respectfully report that at 4.30 p. m., on the 17th, a brigade of rebel cavalry under Colonel Harrison attacked one of the pickets of this brigade, which was posted on an eminence to the right of the Morristown road, 2 miles from Dandridge.

As soon as the firing commenced the First Wisconsin was ordered out at a trot, and dismounted at the foot of the wooded hill on which our picket was posted, for the purpose of occupying it before the enemy and holding it against him. He, however, drove back our pickets so rapidly that he was enabled to open a flank fire before the regiment could be brought into action. At this time the remainder of the brigade was ordered out at a trot, but owing to a misunderstanding, for which no blame can attach to any person, did not move at the first order. The First Wisconsin was driving the enemy rapidly through the woods when the Eighth and Eleventh Texas charged past its left flank upon the led horses. Major Torrey promptly returned with a portion of his command, and some desperate hand-to-hand fighting took place for the possession of the horses. The Second and Fourth Indiana arrived at this time, and four companies of the former and two of the latter charged the enemy's cavalry and drove it three-quarters of a mile, while the remainder of those regiments dismounted and formed on the left of the First Wisconsin, in which order our line again advanced and drove the enemy through the woods, while the Seventh Kentucky made a gallant but unsuccessful attempt to regain the original post of the picket on our right. At this time three bodies of the enemy's infantry advanced on our line across an open field in column of sections, and, disregarding our fire, which fell steadily upon them, moved within 30 yards of our front, passing heedlessly over the bodies of their fallen comrades, planted their battle-flag, and began to deploy. Without waiting so hopeless a contest as must have taken place between dismounted cavalrymen and a superior force of trained infantry, our line was withdrawn in good order to its original position, where breast-works of rails were hastily erected, while the mounted men were properly posted for supports with the expectation that the enemy would advance and renew the contest. The First Brigade now arrived and promptly took position on our left. We remained in line within short range of the enemy until 11 p. m., when an order was received to move to Strawberry Plains. The Second Brigade was the last to leave the ground. Owing to my desire to possess the hill, which was considered of the highest importance as commanding the position occupied by the camp of the Federal troops, our men were more freely exposed than they would otherwise have been.

Our loss was 48 killed, wounded, and missing (*vide* report).* We captured 19 of the enemy, and owing to his manner of moving infantry across an open field exposed to our fire, his loss in killed and wounded must greatly have exceeded ours. Deserters last night reported 150. His cavalry was driven out of sight in 15 minutes after the beginning of the action.

This skirmish has increased my confidence in the fighting qualities of the Second Brigade and diminished my own conceit. I pay

* Nominal list omitted.

no undeserved compliments in saying that the charge of Lieutenant-Colonel [Major] Lesslie of the Fourth and Captain Edwards of the Second could not have been bettered; that Major Purdy of the Fourth handled his dismounted men splendidly, and that Major Torrey, by the masterly manner in which he extricated himself from the dangerous position in which my culpable haste had placed him, gained new honors for himself and regiment. Lieutenant Moulton, acting assistant adjutant-general, Second Brigade, who had his horse killed under him, and Captain Robinson, acting assistant inspector-general, who was constantly in the thickest of the fight, deserve special mention for their gallantry. Brigade Surgeon Carrick was very prompt and efficient in attending our wounded. Capt. W. W. La Grange, First Wisconsin, fell with a dangerous (probably mortal) wound while gallantly charging at the head of his company near the crest of the hill.

Very respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, First Cavalry Division, D. C.*

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No. 10.

*Report of Col. Frank Wolford, First Kentucky Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Army of the Ohio.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, CAVALRY CORPS,
*Near Knoxville, Tenn., January* 21, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report in relation to the operations of my division on the 17th instant that the attack of the enemy was made at first considerably to my left. I formed my command at the forks of the road about 1½ miles west of Dandridge, the First Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Adams commanding, upon the right of Colonel Garrard's command, the Second Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Bond commanding, upon Lieutenant-Colonel Adams' right, with his (Lieutenant-Colonel Bond's) right resting upon the river; all in good position.

The enemy advanced in considerable numbers upon a regiment of infantry (Ninety-third Ohio) which had deployed as skirmishers in my front. After a sharp contest they were driven in and pursued with great fury. I re-enforced the infantry with a part of the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry (dismounted). They were not able to resist the fury of the attack, and fell back through a piece of woods in good order. I then advanced my whole line to meet the enemy and repulsed him, driving him back into the woods, when night came on. After dark I ordered my command to move up under the brow of the hill near the woods, and lie down. In about one hour the enemy lit their camp-fires. After he had collected around his fires I ordered a volley from the whole line, and drove him from his camp. He fell back from our front to where he had originally formed in the evening. After placing a heavy skirmish line I permitted the command to return to camp.

The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded was considerable,

but I do not know the number. Our loss was very trifling, for after dark the enemy did not return our fire. Three wounded covered all our casualties.

The officers and men of my command behaved with great gallantry.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK WOLFORD,
*Colonel, Commanding First Division.*

Capt. W. C. RAWOLLE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 11.

*Report of Col. Israel Garrard, Seventh Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Cavalry Division, Army of the Ohio.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION, CAVALRY CORPS,
*January* 21, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that about 2 o'clock p. m. on the 17th instant, having been ordered to hold my command in readiness to move, I formed it in line on the brow of the bank of the creek, 1½ miles out from Dandridge, on the left of the Bend of the Chucky road, my right communicating with Colonel Wolford's command and my left with Colonel McCook's command. Across the creek, and out about a quarter of a mile, was the reserve of the infantry picket post. The infantry was, I believe, the One hundred and twenty-fifth Ohio, Colonel Moore.

In front of my First Brigade on the right was open fields. In front of the Second Brigade was heavy woods extending to the top of the large hill, or rather double hill, which extended all the way across our front. From the Morristown road to the Bend of Chucky road in front, and to the right of my position, was a heavy forest on a plain, or rather level ground. At the front edge of this forest a scattering picket-firing had continued for an hour, when a heavy and sustained firing began on the extreme left of the front near the Morristown road. The Second Brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel Butler, dismounted and pushed forward rapidly, taking position on the right of the forces engaged. They charged at once, and the rebel force fell back and were driven out of the woods and from the left half of the big hill. The rebels kept the right slope of the hill, and had a battery near the base of it, which commanded our position on the creek.

A portion of the rebel force moved over from the hill to the woods on the right of the road, and drove our forces out of the woods and reached a position from which they attacked the infantry line to great advantage. They placed one or two guns in position at the edge of the woods. A few shots from my guns silenced them.

I now ordered the Second Brigade back to the first position on the bank overlooking the creek. The infantry fell back and formed on my right. Colonel Moore reported to me that he had but 10 rounds of ammunition. I ordered him to fall back toward Dandridge. It was now night, but the moonlight enabled us to see that the enemy were establishing their lines opposite to ours, and moving bodies of

troops in our vicinity; and the sounds indicated that they were occupying the hill in front of us in considerable force. One of their bodies of troops, marching near us in the woods, drew the fire of the Seventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry; after that their movements were made beyond our sight. About 9 o'clock I received orders to march, leaving pickets. Captain Warren, Seventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, was ordered to take command of all the picket details from the cavalry. He could find none on the front occupied by General Elliott's command. With the pickets, which he withdrew at daylight, he formed the extreme rear guard. The enemy overtook rear guard a mile or two from Dandridge, and skirmished with it during the day. There was no loss of the rear guard.

The losses of my command were 3 killed and 12 wounded in the Second Brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel Butler; 1 artilleryman killed by accident by our own gun, and 2 slightly wounded in the First Brigade.

One regiment (the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry) was over the river guarding the fords opposite and in the rear of the enemy's position. It joined the command the next day at Strawberry Plains, without loss.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISRAEL GARRARD,
*Colonel Seventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Commanding.*

Captain RAWOLLE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 12.

*Report of Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army.*

HEADQUARTERS,
*Russellville, E. Tenn., January* 19, 1864.

SIR: The enemy advanced by Dandridge on the 14th, forcing our cavalry back and aiming to throw us out of position by turning our left.

On the 15th, Hood's and Buckner's divisions were advanced to a position to meet the enemy's move, and at the same time to threaten his base at New Market.

On the 16th, he made an effort to throw his cavalry in rear of ours, but the cavalry came in contact with these divisions of infantry and was driven back in some confusion.

On the 17th, a part of Hood's division was moved down to the enemy's immediate front. The sharpshooters of this division were ordered to advance against the enemy's left flank, and Martin's cavalry (dismounted) were ordered to follow this move, advancing in the enemy's front. The battalions of sharpshooters were closely supported by the main force of the division, the immediate object being to gain a favorable position for future operations. The flank movement was handsomely executed, and it was handsomely followed by the dismounted cavalry. As the infantry had had a good long march before reaching the ground, we only had time to get our position a little after dark. During the night the enemy retired to New Market and to Strawberry Plains, leaving his dead upon the

field. The retreat seems to have been made somewhat hastily and not in very good order. We only got some few arms and equipments and a little ammunition. Our infantry was not in condition to pursue, half of our men being without shoes. Our cavalry is almost as badly off for want of clothing, and the horses are without shoes, or nearly half of them. It was sent forward, however, with orders to make the effort to distress the enemy, and if possible to drive him from this side of the river. The enemy is much demoralized, and seems to have been in our power again, had it been possible for us to avail ourselves of this opportunity. The weather has been very severe for the past three weeks, and we are now having a snow-storm. Our men suffer a great deal for want of clothing even in their huts, and some few have been severely frosted.

We have been making shoes since we left Knoxville, but with all of our workmen can only make one hundred pairs a day. As our shoes are all old, they wear out faster than we can make them. Most of those that we have we have made ourselves. If you could order enough to shoe the entire command I think that our order shops will keep us supplied.

I have no report yet of the casualties of the two days' skirmishing, but do not think that they can exceed 150; possibly not half of this.

I remain, general, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. LONGSTREET,
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

[Indorsement.]

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
*Richmond, January* 29, 1864.

Respectfully returned to the adjutant and inspector general.

On a communication similar to the within, received a few days back from the War Department, a report was made to the effect that the last of the supplies called for for General Longstreet's command were shipped on the 16th instant.

A. R. LAWTON,
*Quartermaster-General.*

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**JANUARY 19, 1864.—Skirmish at Big Springs, near Tazewell, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Charles D. Pennebaker, Twenty-seventh Kentucky Infantry, commanding District of the Clinch.

No. 2.—Capt. Jackson Stepp, Sixth Indiana Cavalry.

No. 3.—Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

*Report of Col. Charles D. Pennebaker, Twenty-seventh Kentucky Infantry, commanding District of the Clinch.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE CLINCH,
*Tazewell, Tenn., January* 19, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report for your information:

This morning about 5 o'clock a party of rebels, numbering about

125, surprised and captured about 40 men of the Sixth Indiana Cavalry, stationed at Big Springs, on the Morristown road, 5½ miles from this place, under command of Captain Stepp. It was a complete surprise. This officer escaped, and has been placed in arrest and required to give an explanation, which will be forwarded to you for information as soon as received. As soon as this was reported, a detachment of cavalry under Lieutenant-Colonel Matson, Sixth Indiana Cavalry, was sent in pursuit. Colonel Matson went as far as Evans' Ford, on the Clinch River, and sent a scout across. They found no enemy, and returned. The enemy went out in the direction of Morristown, crossing Clinch River at Evans' Ford. I sent a scout yesterday which went in the neighborhood of Mulberry Gap, and returned this evening. They report no enemy in that locality except small scouting parties depredating upon the citizens. Colonel Love, commanding Third Brigade, First Division, Cavalry Corps, is encamped near Ball's Bridge, on the Virginia road, 14 miles from Cumberland Gap. His scouts have been several miles beyond that point, and report information received from citizens that the enemy is in position near Jonesville, 1,700 strong. If this is so, and I have no reason to doubt it, I have not mounted force sufficient to dislodge them.

I am, general, your obedient servant,

C. D. PENNEBAKER,
*Colonel, Commanding District.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Capt. Jackson Stepp, Sixth Indiana Cavalry.*

CAMP SIXTH CAV., (SEVENTY-FIRST) INDIANA VOLS.,
*January* 20, 1864.

COLONEL: In compliance with your order directing me to send to you a statement in explanation of my conduct on the morning of the 19th instant, at Big Springs, I hereby send you the facts as they occurred. In order to present the facts clearly it will be necessary to state what occurred the day previous.

On the morning of the 18th I had for duty 3 lieutenants and 127 men. On that day I was ordered by Colonel Matson to have 1 lieutenant and 30 men to report to the commandant of the post at Tazewell, which left me with 97 men and 2 lieutenants. Out of 97 men left me I had 40 on picket duty and 7 on camp duty. My pickets were posted as follows: On the Mulberry Gap road were posted 6 men and 2 non-commissioned officers; on the Evans' Ford road were posted 6 men and 2 non-commissioned officers; on the Shelton's Ferry road were 7 men and 2 non-commissioned officers; on the Walker's Ferry road were posted 8 men and 1 non-commissioned officer. These pickets were all posted from three-fourths of a mile to 1 mile from my headquarters in camp. The pickets on Walker's Ferry road and on Shelton's Ferry road were under the command of Lieutenant James, of Company G, while the others I commanded my-

self, visiting them night and day. On the road leading to Tazewell were posted 4 men one-fourth of a mile from camp.

On the 18th, a flag of truce from General Vaughn's command, escorted by 6 men, came to one of the picket-posts, and without my orders or knowledge were permitted to pass and come to my headquarters. They represented themselves as guarding 3 Union women through from Bull's Gap, where they had had their houses burnt and other property destroyed. After making inquiries of the women sufficiently to convince me of their honest intentions I permitted them to pass on. Immediately I sent the flag of truce and the escort, guarded by 9 men and 1 non-commissioned officer, back through the lines to the river a distance of 3 miles, with orders not to permit any conversation whatever by them with any citizen. After this I sent a note to the colonel commanding post stating the circumstances of a flag of truce coming to the lines, and that I had sent them back to the river, but received no reply. Late in the afternoon the same day a citizen reported to me that some 15 home guards had come across the river 10 miles above, but upon inquiring of the citizen I learned the greater portion of them lived on this side and had frequently come over to their homes; but not being able to spare any men from camp, the horses not being in a condition to go on a scout, I did not think it advisable to go after them. But to guard against any danger, about 8 o'clock at night I moved the position of the picket-posts. After giving strict orders to the men on camp guard to be on their watch and alert, and to communicate any alarm to me, I lay down at a late hour.

About 5 a. m. on the morning of the 19th, I was awakened by the firing and yells of the rebels, who had completely surrounded the camp. I ordered the men to get to their arms, but the only response I met with was for me to surrender, and that my men were already in their hands. Seeing the condition of affairs, and knowing it was impossible to get my men to do anything, through their fire I succeeded in getting to my horse, which I got on and went to the hospital to order the hospital steward to get the sick and medical stores away as soon as possible, and report the affair at Tazewell to the commandant of post. While putting on my bridle and saddle preparatory to going back to my quarters if I could possibly get there, and learn the condition of my command (which I knew must be captured), I was again fired at by several rebels, which rendered it impossible for me to return. From the hospital I came directly to the headquarters of the commandant of post at Tazewell, and made known what had happened. Upon going back with the detachment in the morning which was sent in pursuit, I learned that 21 men of Company I had been taken or were missing, and 24 of Company G, making in all 45 men. The horses which were missing amounted in all to 53 head.

From good evidence I learned the rebel force had crossed at Evans' Ford and directed their course in a westerly direction, capturing in their route 1 officer and 14 men, purporting to be of the First Tennessee Regiment. Getting within a short distance of my camp, a portion of them were dismounted and sent over the mountain, evading the pickets on the Walker's Ferry road and Shelton's Ferry road. None of the pickets were disturbed until after the attack was made on the camp, all of them escaping except 5, who were captured as the enemy left, on the Evans' Ferry road. The only way I can account

for the camp guards making no alarm is, they were fired on so suddenly they had no time to communicate the fact to the camp.

Hoping this may be sufficiently explicit, and being willing to make any statement that is asked of me,*

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JACKSON STEPP,
*Captain, Sixth Indiana Cavalry.*

Colonel Kise,
*Commanding Post.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army.*

Russellville, *January* 19, 1864.

General: Maj. George W. Day reports a handsome affair at Big Springs, near Tazewell, this morning. With 100 men he attacked 150 Yankees, killed and wounded 6, captured 3 lieutenants, 64 privates, 60 or 70 horses, 50 stand of arms, 6 wagons, and 1 ambulance.

J. LONGSTREET,
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

General S. Cooper,
*Richmond, Va.*

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**JANUARY 20, 1864.—Skirmish at Tracy City, Tenn.**

REPORTS.†

No. 1.—Lieut. Col. William B. Wooster, Twentieth Connecticut Infantry.
No. 2.—Col. Joseph M. Sudsburg, Third Maryland Infantry.
No. 3.—Capt. John F. George, Second Massachusetts Infantry.

No. 1.

*Report of Lieut. Col. William B. Wooster, Twentieth Connecticut Infantry.*

Hdqrs. Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers,
*Cowan Station, Tenn., January* 22, 1864.

Colonel: I have the honor to report that on Wednesday, the 20th instant, the post at Tracy City, commanded by Capt. Andrew Upson, Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers, and garrisoned by Company B of said regiment, commanded by Second Lieut. Theodore Jepson and a company of Tennessee cavalry, almost entirely unarmed and not mounted, and known as Captain Tipton's company, was attacked by rebel cavalry numbering from 100 to 150 men, a portion of which force is known as Capt. Joe Carter's cavalry,

*Captain Stepp was subsequently tried by general court-martial on the charge of "neglect of duty," and honorably acquitted. See General Orders, No. 18, Cavalry Corps, Department of the Ohio, April 1, 1864.

† See also Thomas' report, p. 7.

This force came through Altamont about 10 a. m. of that day, and 2 mounted men dressed in Union uniforms rode rapidly up to the house of Capt. S. P. Tipton, then absent from his command and at his home in Altamont, and cried out, "Captain, the rebels are coming." As soon as he emerged from his house he was shot and instantly killed by the men that called to him. This force also killed at Altamont a private in Captain Tipton's company by the name of David Franklin. They arrived at Tracy City about 1 p. m. The picket on the road over which they passed was from Captain Tipton's men. The sentinel discharged his piece, but so rapid was the movement of the force that no alarm reached the camp until the whole force rode in. The point of entry was from the rear of Howard and Benham's store, and immediately, as the head of the column passed to the front of the store, they fired on the sentinel then on duty, mortally wounding David B. Powell, of Company B, Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers, who was sitting near the sentinel. Many shots were fired by the sentinel and those in and about the store. Repulsed here, the force rapidly moved to the railroad depot, some 40 rods distant, where Captain Upson then was with a guard of three men. This placed the whole rebel force between Captain Upson and his command. He at first attempted to join his command, but seeing his position, he threw down his pistol and surrendered, and as he did so was several times shot at, two balls taking effect and seriously wounding him, one having passed through his left lung. While this movement was being enacted, Lieutenant Jepson formed his command in the stockade near the store. The rebels formed in line of battle, under cover of an elevation of ground on the right of the stockade, and also under like cover in rear of the railroad depot, and still another portion farther to the left and in rear of the engine-house. In these positions they were completely sheltered, so as to render our fire from the stockade quite ineffectual, while they, from their concealed positions and behind trees, continued to fire at our forces in the stockade without damage. Lieutenant Jepson deemed it inexpedient to advance any portion of his force from the stockade, as by so doing he would be exposed to a cross-fire from the rebels and endanger the capture of his whole force. In this position the officer in command of the rebel forces dispatched a flag of truce by a citizen with the following proposition for surrender:

TRACY CITY, TENN.,
*January* 20, 1864.

Lieutenant JEPSON:

SIR: Captain Upson, with 10 of your men, are now in my possession. If the remainder of your command will surrender at once, without further bloodshed, the entire command shall be at once paroled and permitted to retain all their personal effects.

By order of General Wharton:

W. S. BLEDSOE,
*Major, Fourth Tennessee Cavalry.*

This proposition was promptly declined by Lieutenant Jepson. Soon another proposition was sent in like manner of the first, offering to leave the command unmolested provided they could be permitted to take the goods from the store near the stockade. This, too, was rejected. Two other propositions for surrender, having in view the possession of the store (the evident object of their raid),

were sent in and declined. Under cover of the depot, the engine-house, and the buildings covering the coal-chutes men were advanced, and each was fired and totally consumed.

The stockade, erected long since, was built with reference to a defense of the store and buildings in the immediate vicinity of the store, and is so located as to afford no protection to the buildings that were burned.

Six men were captured with Captain Upson, all of whom were stripped of overcoats, blankets, and money, and forced to take a parole administered to them under threats of death as the penalty of refusal.

The rebels remained in position until dark, when, fearing re-enforcements from Cowan, by the cars which had been stopped and sent back during the afternoon, they left, resting that night about 7 miles from Tracy City, near the house of David Nunley. They then passed in the direction from which they came (near Altamont) toward White County, where I have reasons to believe a rebel force exceeding 500 can be assembled. During this assault but 3 of Captain Tipton's men could be found. All had fled to places of supposed safety, and are again slowly returning to Tracy City.

Three of the rebel cavalry are known to have been wounded.

The officers and men of the Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers there engaged exhibited great coolness and determination to do their whole duty.

I have the honor to be, colonel, your obedient servant,

WM. B. WOOSTER,

*Lieut. Col., Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers, Comdg. Post.*

Col. SAMUEL ROSS,

*Commanding First Brigade.*

*Addenda.*—At the time of the attack on Tracy City on the 20th instant the force consisted of 2 commissioned officers and 72 enlisted men from the Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers and Captain Tipton's cavalry (1 officer, 73 enlisted men) none of which are armed—except some half-dozen with squirrel rifles—none mounted, and none of the slightest service.

At the time of the attack I was at Anderson, and Colonel Sudsburg sent Captain George with a detail of 100 men, who proceeded by railroad to a point near Tracy City, where he threw out a line of skirmishers and advanced to the place, arriving about 3 a. m. on the 21st instant. Finding matters there quiet, he at once returned with his command to Cowan. Colonel Sudsburg then detailed Second Lieutenant Gould and 43 men from the Third Maryland Volunteers to proceed at once to Tracy City to remain until further orders. With this force I proceeded to Tracy City, and disposed of the same in such manner to add materially to the strength of the position. I placed 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, and 12 men at an important bridge on the railroad about 1 mile from the place. I placed William W. Morse, captain Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers, in command of the post in place of Captain Upson, wounded. This addenda is made pursuant to instructions from division headquarters.

WM. B. WOOSTER,

*Lieut. Col. Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers, Comdg. Regt.*

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION, 12TH CORPS,
*Decherd, Tenn., January* 23, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded, with recommendation that the troops be withdrawn from Tracy City, as I cannot see the public necessity of guarding a private trading establishment and coal mine.

SAML. ROSS,
*Col. Twentieth Connecticut Vol. Infantry, Comdg. First Brig.*

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No. 2.

*Reports of Col. Joseph M. Sudsbury, Third Maryland Infantry.*

COWAN, *January* 21, 1864.

Our force at Tracy City was attacked yesterday afternoon by a mounted force of about 150 men. The force made a most determined resistance, being summoned three times to surrender. Captain Upson is shot through the body, and, it is feared, mortally wounded, and quite a number are missing. Captain Tipton's cavalry are nearly all missing. They burned the depot and other buildings. The reenforcements which I sent last night have returned, and I now send a detail of 50 men to permanently re-enforce the post, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Wooster. I also sent a surgeon to the wounded. The rebel force is supposed to be Murray's gang from the vicinity of Collins River.

JOSEPH M. SUDSBURG,
*Colonel, Commanding Post.*

Lieutenant-Colonel RODGERS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HDQRS. THIRD REGIMENT MARYLAND VOLUNTEERS,
*Cowan, Tenn., January* 21, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you report of Capt. J. F. George, Company E, Second Massachusetts Infantry. I have sent to-day 1 commissioned officer and 50 men of my regiment for re-enforcement to Tracy City.

General Knipe, with whom I had an interview some days ago, informed me that Tracy City was not under my command, but under Lieutenant-Colonel Wooster, Twentieth Connecticut. Lieutenant-Colonel Wooster not being able to support the post at Tracy City from his regiment, of which the headquarters are in Tantalon, I considered it my duty under existing circumstances to act from here.

I would respectfully request further instruction.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH M. SUDSBURG,
*Colonel Third Maryland Regiment, Commanding Post.*

Capt. S. E. PITTMAN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 3.

*Report of Capt. John F. George, Second Massachusetts Infantry.*

HDQRS. DETACHMENT SECOND MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY,
*Cowan, Tenn., January* 21, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the expedition sent by your order under my command to Tracy City on the evening of the 20th instant:

The expedition, consisting of details from the Third Maryland, Fifth Connecticut, and Second Massachusetts (in all about 100 men and 1 commissioned officer, Lieutenant Clary, Third Maryland), under myself, proceeded about 8 p. m. up the railroad some 6 miles, till we neared the water-tank on the Tracy City Railroad, where we found a train awaiting us. The men were immediately put upon the car, and we proceeded toward Tracy City till within about 4 miles of the town, when we slackened the speed of the train. When within three-fourths of a mile from the trestle bridge which crosses Gizzard Creek, about a mile from the town, and which is somewhat over 150 feet long, the men were disembarked and skirmishers thrown out about 60 paces in advance of the main body, and the command was cautiously advanced toward the bridge. Having learned from the inhabitants of a cottage near by that no firing had been heard and no enemy seen in that vicinity, and that our pickets were posted on the farther side of the bridge, I left a corporal and 10 men in an unoccupied stockade, near the southern end of the bridge, and proceeded across, but found no pickets on the other side. Thus we were in fear that the enemy had captured them, as well as the troops in the town. I then proceeded cautiously, keeping the skirmishers well advanced, till we reached a small trestle bridge about 300 yards from Tracy City depot, when I halted and sent 10 men across to ascertain who were in possession of the town, and by whom was the stockade then occupied. These men soon returned, reporting that the town and stockade were in our possession; and I thereupon advanced into the town and occupied the stockade, in which latter I found about 40 men and a lieutenant of the Twentieth Connecticut Infantry, it then being about 1 a. m. I found, on investigation, that about 3 p. m. a body of guerrillas, about 100 in number, had made a dash into the town, coming in from two opposite directions so suddenly as completely to surprise the pickets and outposts. The captain (Upson) of the Twentieth Connecticut commanding, who was within the depot at the time, having with him about 15 unarmed men, immediately started for the stockade (about 200 yards distance), but being cut off before reaching it was shot, after throwing down his revolver in token of surrender, and taken prisoner, together with about 15 of his men. Close to the stockade was a log building occupied as a store by a certain Benham. The rebels made a dash for this, and shot 1 of the men of the Twentieth Connecticut who was standing in the door-way, seriously wounding him. The store-keeper, who was within, immediately closed the door and fired with his revolver upon them from the window, wounding 2 of the band.

Upon this they returned toward the railroad, thus giving our men an opportunity to enter the stockade, which they then immediately occupied under the command of Lieutenant [Jepson], of the Twen-

tieth Connecticut. The enemy then, after deploying along the edge of the woods surrounding the town, sent in under flags of truce four separate summons to surrender, which being refused, they proceeded to set fire to the depot, engine-house, and some buildings connected with the coal works. They paroled and set at liberty 10 of their prisoners. Of the remaining, nothing has been heard. A man named Kennedy, who owns a house in the place, and who was arrested several nights before on suspicion of being a spy, but who effected his escape, is supposed to have guided this rebel party into the town. I remained with my command in the town till 8 a. m. of the 21st, when, seeing no signs of the enemy in the vicinity, and in accordance with your orders, I embarked my command on board the cars and returned to Cowan, where I arrived at 12 m.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. F. GEORGE,
*Captain Co. E, Second Massachusetts Infantry, Comdg.*

Col. JOSEPH M. SUDSBURG,
*Third Maryland Infantry, Commanding Post.*

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**JANUARY 21, 1864.—Scout from Chattanooga to Harrison and Ooltewah, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Geza Mihalotzy, Twenty-fourth Illinois Infantry.*

HDQRS. 24TH REGT. ILLINOIS VOL. INFANTRY,
*Chattanooga, Tenn., January 24, 1864.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report, detailing additional results of the expedition under my command of detachment Third Brigade, First Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, to Harrison and Ooltewah:

On the 20th instant the following-named 4 deserters from the rebel army came into our lines, whom I sent to Provost-Marshal-General Wiles the same day: John L. Tanner, private, Sixteenth Tennessee Infantry; J. C. Cantrell, private, Sixteenth Tennessee Infantry; T. J. Cantrell, private, Sixteenth Tennessee Infantry, stationed 4 miles below Dalton; Wm. P. Worley, private, Thirty-fifth Tennessee Infantry, stationed at Tunnel Hill. They came from Tunnel Hill and Dalton, and report the strength of the rebel forces at those places respectively as follows: At Tunnel Hill, three brigades of infantry and a large force of artillery; at Dalton, two divisions of infantry.

On the 21st instant, the morning after receiving your dispatch, in obedience to orders, I proceeded with my command to Ooltewah, while I sent my train to Chattanooga by the direct road. With the train in charge of Lieutenant Hodges, Thirty-seventh Indiana Volunteers, I sent 3 citizen prisoners from the neighborhood of Harrison (J. T. Gardenhire, J. A. Hunter, and ——— Lyon) to Provost-Marshal-General Wiles, who are charged with having aided rebel guerrillas.

On approaching the town of Ooltewah about 10 a. m. I encountered a squad of rebel cavalry, some 60 men strong, who, however, precipitately fled from my advance guard, and having no cavalry at

my disposal I was unable to pursue them. The intention of this force was to get into the rear and thereby cut off the communication of the scouting party of 50 under Capt. H. A. Sheldon, of First Wisconsin Volunteers, whom I had sent out on the preceding day, as reported in my dispatch of January 20, 1864.

On my way to Ooltewah, at the house of Anthony Moore, I seized the records of the county registrar's office, comprising the following: Eighteen volumes of records of registrar's office, County of Hamilton; two volumes Laws of Tennessee, 1857–'59; one volume Code of Tennessee. The above volumes are at my headquarters, to be disposed of according to instructions.

At Ooltewah I arrested Miss S. Locke and Miss Barnet, who have already been delivered to Provost-Marshal-General Wiles, both of whom are charged with carrying contraband information to the rebel army.

Through the scouting expedition above mentioned I have obtained the following information: The rebel forces at Tunnel Hill and Dalton, whose exact strength I was unable to ascertain, were reported doing considerable moving and shifting recently, the object of which, however, could not be learned. A force of 300 of Wheeler's rebel cavalry are encamped 5 miles beyond Igou's Gap, whose pickets are stationed at the gap. This force is continually making raids in small detachments on the Union towns and farms of that neighborhood, and committing all manner of outrages and cruelties on the loyal population. As an incident illustrative of the barbarities constantly being perpetrated by these outlaws, I will mention that a Mr. Tallent, a loyal citizen living near the forks of the roads leading to Red Clay and McDaniel's Gap, recently found in his immediate neighborhood a young child in a perishing condition, stripped of all its clothing, which the rebels had left there, having attempted by that means to find the father of the said child, whom they proposed to hang, he being a loyal citizen.

I have been reliably informed that a rebel raid on our river transportation at Harrison is now positively being prepared. This raiding force will have to pass through the mountain gaps near Ooltewah. The rebels infesting that region of country have been in the habit of disguising themselves in Federal uniforms, and have by this means often succeeded in deceiving the Union people. Messrs. Stone and Scroggins, Union citizens living at Julien's Gap, can give information of a guerrilla band commanded by a citizen of Ooltewah, who steal and plunder from the loyal citizens continually. They also know where a large portion of the spoils of this band are now secreted. A number of discharged soldiers from Tennessee regiments have banded together with Union citizens and organized themselves for self-defense. They are armed with such weapons as they have been able to procure, consisting of rifles, carbines, and revolvers. This band of loyal men, who are men of the highest sense of honor and true patriotism, are doing all they can to promote the success of our cause. Their number could be increased to 200 if arms could be provided for them. By their aid Surgeon Hunt, of the Ninth Tennessee Infantry, whom I previously reported captured by guerrillas, was enabled to escape, and he is now in safety. I have also learned that the following named citizens,* living in the vicinity of Ooltewah, are in the habit of harboring the

* Not subsequently mentioned in the report.

guerrillas infesting that region, and that the rebels have signified their intention to burn the town of Ooltewah as soon as the families of the Misses Locke and Barnet, above mentioned, quit the town. After obtaining the above information from my scouting party, who returned about two hours after I arrived at Ooltewah, I took up the march to Chattanooga and arrived in camp at 9.30 o'clock the same day with my command, without having sustained any loss.

In conclusion I would again most respectfully beg leave to call the attention of the general commanding to the advantages to be gained by permanently stationing a small force at the town of Ooltewah. A force of two regiments with a half battery of artillery could, in conjunction with the organization of citizens above mentioned, hold all the mountain passes in that region, thereby effectually preventing all raids, securing our river transportation, and affording to the almost exclusively loyal population the protection which they so much deserve. A great amount of most valuable information could also be obtained by such a force with the aid of the citizens of the band previously mentioned, they being intimately acquainted with the country thereabouts and able and willing to put in operation a most effective system of espionage for that purpose.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. MIHALOTZY,
*Colonel 24th Regt. Ill. Vol. Inf., Commanding Expedition.*

Maj. Gen. J. M. PALMER,
*Commanding Fourteenth Corps.*

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Chattanooga, January* 24, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded, and attention called to the highly judicious suggestions of Colonel Mihalotzy.

J. M. PALMER,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

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**JANUARY 21-22, 1864.—Skirmishes at Strawberry Plains (21st) and at Armstrong's Ferry, Tenn. (22d).**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Edward Ferrero, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Ninth Corps.

No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Orlando B. Willcox, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.

No. 3.—Lieut. Erskine Gittings, Batteries L and M, Third U. S. Artillery.

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Edward Ferrero, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Ninth Corps.*

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, NINTH ARMY CORPS,
*Camp near Erin's Station, East Tenn., January* 30, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for the information of the commanding general:

According to instructions received I marched the Ninth Army Corps on the morning of the 16th instant at 9 a. m. from Blain's

Cross-Roads to Strawberry Plains, where I received orders to encamp the command, with the exception of one brigade, which was ordered to take position on the south bank of the river Holston. I accordingly ordered the Second Brigade, First Division, commanded by Colonel Peirce, of the Twenty-Ninth Massachusetts Volunteers, to take position on the south bank of the river Holston, posting two regiments on College Hill to the right of the railroad bridge, and the balance of his brigade, consisting of three regiments, to a position on the left of the bridge, with instructions to picket all roads leading to the railroad bridge.

On the evening of the 20th, a detachment of the enemy made a dash on our pickets on the Dandridge road, but were promptly met and repulsed. During the evening I received instructions to march the command across the bridge and leave a strong picket force to protect the men engaged in destroying the bridge. The command crossed at 9 p. m., and the bridge was destroyed during the night. The pickets were withdrawn at 10 o'clock the next morning, crossing the river on a flat without molestation.

On the morning of the 21st, I ordered Colonel Morrison, commanding First Brigade, to relieve troops of the Twenty-third Corps stationed to cover the bridge. The Seventy-ninth New York Volunteers garrisoned the block-house, and Lieutenant Gittings' battery was placed in a position commanding the opposite approaches to the bridge, supported by the Thirty-sixth Massachusetts Volunteers. The Twentieth Michigan Volunteers was placed on the road leading to Blain's Cross-Roads, picketing the river to the left. Colonel Peirce's brigade was stationed 2 miles below, guarding the fords to the right. Colonel Collins' brigade (Second Division) was held in reserve.

At about 11 a. m. the enemy made their appearance in force on the south bank of the river, placing 6 guns in position and opening a severe fire on my forces, evidently determined to dislodge them for the purpose of saving the bridge, which was in flames at the time. I ordered Lieutenant Gittings to open fire on the enemy, which he did vigorously, and was replied to by the enemy's batteries, but without any material damage to my command. This artillery duel was kept up for nearly four hours without cessation, when the enemy were compelled to abandon their position and retreat out of sight.

The bridge being completely destroyed, I received instructions to move my command during the night of the 21st toward Knoxville.

The command moved at 3 a. m. of the 22d, Colonel Morrison bringing up the rear with his brigade. Two pieces of artillery having been left without transportation (belonging to another corps), and not wishing to leave or destroy them, I appealed to the men of my command, and they cheerfully manned the ropes and dragged the guns and limbers to within 7 miles of Knoxville, when horses were obtained to take them the remainder of the distance.

At 12 m. on the 22d, I halted the command on the road within 7 miles of Knoxville, when Colonel Morrison reported to me the enemy's cavalry following in his rear in force. I received instructions to take a position on the right of the road connecting with General Manson. Remaining in said position for some time, and the enemy showing no disposition to attack us, I received instructions to continue my march toward Knoxville. I marched the command to within 3½ miles of the city; again formed line of battle awaiting the attack of the enemy. They advanced their skirmishers quite boldly, and occupied a commanding crest a very short distance in front of

my line, which would have proved destructive to my men had they been allowed to remain. I accordingly ordered 2 companies of the Twenty-seventh Michigan Volunteers to charge and carry the crest, which they did in a most gallant manner, causing the enemy to make a most precipitant retreat. Occupied the position during the night without further molestation from the enemy.

At daylight on the morning of the 23d, I ordered a company of the Twenty-seventh Michigan Volunteers to advance as skirmishers, supported by the Second Maryland Volunteers. After having scoured the country for a distance of 5 miles, and not being able to find the enemy, rejoined the command, where we remained during that day and night.

On the morning of the 24th, I received instructions to march the command to some suitable camp within supporting distance of Knoxville.

The losses during the above engagements are 1 private, Batteries L and M, Third U. S. Artillery, and Lieutenant Mentzel, of the Forty-sixth New York Volunteers, killed.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the men and officers for their patience and endurance during the march from Strawberry Plains, dragging 2 pieces of artillery a distance of 10 miles over rough, muddy roads, without a murmur. Great credit is due to the brigade commanders for their promptness in carrying out my orders in detail; also to the members of my staff for their valuable assistance.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. FERRERO,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Capt. H. R. MIGHELS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 2.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Orlando B. Willcox, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.*

HEADQUARTERS NINTH ARMY CORPS,
*January* 22, 1864—4.15 p. m.

SIR: With Special Orders, No. 22, received, the last one, to select a camp near the Twenty-third Corps, I had anticipated by moving down with General Manson's division, before the enemy, to the intersection of the Knoxville and Armstrong's Ferry roads. I am now carrying on a brisk skirmish with the enemy's dismounted infantry, holding a position about half a mile above cross-roads, my right resting on a crest and my left and center in the valley, covered by underbrush and broken ground. I took this stand in order to develop, if possible, the character of the force advancing. So far I have discovered nothing but a division of mounted troops. I did not wish either to divide the force or to march into Knoxville with the enemy on my heels. Having no cavalry, I cannot tell anything more than is before me. The enemy's flanks are both covered with woods. If you determine that I shall hold this position to-morrow, please send me commissary stores and ammunition to-night.

O. B. WILLCOX,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, NINTH ARMY CORPS,
*Lyon's Mills, Tenn., January* 31, 1864.

CAPTAIN: On the 21st ultimo the Ninth Corps was at Strawberry Plains. The army was moving toward Knoxville, with heavy trains over bad roads, and the Ninth Corps was left to bring up the rear. The bridge being dismantled and set on fire, our pickets were withdrawn, as directed by the major-general commanding, from the south side of the river in a flat-boat. The enemy soon appeared, lined the banks of the river commanding the plains, and from Seminary Hill opened fire with a field battery. Lieutenant Gittings, with Batteries L and M, Third U. S. Artillery, was posted near a block-house covering the depot, but placed his four guns in a better position on the ridge next in rear of the block-house, and replied with such effect as to silence the enemy, notwithstanding a cross-fire brought to bear upon him from a point to our left and front.

We remained in position all day at Strawberry Plains annoyed, after the artillery ceased, only by the enemy's sharpshooters. They showed a considerable force of cavalry and mounted infantry, some squadrons, and one long column which we were able to reach with our shells with considerable apparent effect. They seemed to be moving down from the New Market road out upon the Sevierville road, from which there were roads leading to a ford 2 miles below us, and other fords still lower down, crossing at either of which would have enabled them to cut our train stretched between Strawberry Plains and Knoxville. The picket at the ford was strengthened, and a regiment sent to Flat Creek by the general's order. In the evening a train of cars was expected to take off some public property remaining at the depot, consisting mainly of two guns, said to belong to Goodspeed's battery (not of the Ninth Corps), and some caissons. There was no transportation to take this property away, and a telegram was received stating that the cars had run off the track just out of Knoxville. The troops were ordered by General Parke to be at Flat Creek by daylight. The batteries were started at 12, the troops at 3. I was directed to bring off the guns and caissons, before mentioned, if possible; if not, to destroy them. The men of the Ninth Corps volunteered to drag the guns, which they did with much labor, and the caissons were destroyed, as it was impossible to bring them away. The troops reached Flat Creek by daylight, and were ordered to move on toward Knoxville in rear of the Twenty-third Corps.

At about 1 o'clock on the 22d, the enemy's cavalry appeared in our rear, 1 mile above the Armstrong house, just as we came up with Manson's division, Twenty-third Corps, which had been halted. The lines were formed and we marched in company with General Manson, without annoyance from the enemy, to a position a mile above the intersection of the Armstrong's Ferry road with the Knoxville road, where I ordered a halt of all the troops, threw out skirmishers toward the enemy, encountered their skirmish line, drove them back, and carried two wooded knolls which they had seized in our rear and right. The rebel force driven off, we went into bivouac. They made a demonstration on General Manson's pickets early in the evening, which was repulsed. Their whole force returned toward Strawberry Plains about midnight, and we saw no more of them. They were said to be Armstrong's division of cavalry and mounted infantry.

Accompanying please find reports of General Ferrero and Lieutenant Gittings.

Our casualties were as follows :*

I have the honor to be, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. B. WILLCOX,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Capt. SAMUEL WRIGHT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Erskine Gittings, Batteries L and M, Third U. S. Artillery.*

ERIN'S STATION,
*January* 30, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to forward a report of the operations of Batteries L and M, Third Artillery, during the 21st and 22d of January, 1864:

On the morning of the 19th, I was ordered to take a position near the block house, overlooking the bridge crossing the Holston. I assumed this position but did not place any guns in the house, as the thickness of the timber was very slight and covered with dirt only partially, rendering it somewhat dangerous from splinters caused by solid shot, but still affording sufficient protection from shells. This, together with the limited field of fire, made me think it best to place the guns outside of the fort.

No signs of the enemy were apparent until between 10 and 11 o'clock of the 21st, when small parties were seen reconnoitering the approaches to the bridge. In half an hour after the first parties of the enemy were seen they brought a field battery into position near the seminary on the opposite side of the river, but as the fire from the enemy's sharpshooters was sufficiently heavy to show that if all the pieces were maintained on the ridge the loss would be disproportionate to the probable gain, I retired three of them to the next ridge, covering them as well as the stumpy nature of the ground admitted. I left orders with the officer remaining with the gun near the house that I would send him directions to hold his position or withdraw as soon as I was able. He, however, withdrew to the position I had assumed before I had sent him orders, assigning as his reason, which was no doubt a good one, "that the slope of the hill on which he fired was so great as to make the recoil of the gun take it to the bottom of the hill, and as the gun could not be run to the extreme crest on account of the sharpshooters, the position appeared to be untenable." The fire of the enemy upon me in my new position was quite sharp, but as most of their shells burst too far to my rear I sustained no injury. The fire brought upon them by my three pieces appeared to do them some injury, as shortly afterward they ceased firing from all but one gun, and finally moved this gun some 800 yards to my left and front, and reopened their fire from this piece. Only a few shots were fired by them in this new position. The enemy, later in the day, showed quite a strong force of mounted infantry, or else the manner in which they moved it led us to believe it to be strong. The

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 1 officer killed, 2 privates wounded, 26 privates missing; total, 29.

only shots fired by me after their battery ceased firing, were from the rifled 6-pounder guns near the depot. At night-fall I took a position a little farther to the rear of my first one, and by 12 p. m. received orders to take the Knoxville road, following in rear of the trains, &c.

The only loss in material which I sustained was one wagon abandoned by the driver on account of breaking the tongue of the wagon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. GITTINGS,
*First Lieutenant, Third Artillery.*

Capt. H. R. MIGHELS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**JANUARY 21–23, 1864.—Scout from Rossville toward Dalton, Ga., and skirmish (22d).**

*Report of Col. William P. Boone, Twenty-eighth Kentucky Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Rossville, Ga., January* 24, 1864.

GENERAL: In obedience to your instructions I moved out of camp at Rossville on the 21st instant at 10 a. m., with the following effective force: Twenty-eighth Kentucky Mounted Infantry, 220 men and 11 officers, Lieut. Col. J. Rowan Boone, commanding; Fourth Michigan Cavalry, 211 men and 4 officers, Capt. Alfred Abeel, commanding. Total, 431 men and 15 officers.

Command moved in direction of and through McLemore's Cove to a point between Blue Bird Gap and Dug Gap, 25 miles south of Chattanooga, and bivouacked for the night, placing strong pickets on the approaches through those gaps.

At 3 a. m. on the 22d instant, the march was resumed, and crossing Lookout at the intersection of Pigeon Mountain passed through Broomtown Valley to Summerville, thence across Taylor's Ridge to Dirt Town, and thence I proceeded about 8 miles in direction of Dalton to the camp of Colonel Culberson, commanding Home Guards, where some 300 of that officer's regiment were routed; the camp was destroyed with a considerable number of arms and other property, but the main body of the enemy escaped in direction of Dalton, where the Confederate forces were strongly posted.

Having gone as far as indicated by orders and being encumbered by considerable number of prisoners, horses, mules, &c., the propriety of advancing upon Dalton was doubtful, and I moved back in direction of Chattanooga, recrossed Taylor's Ridge and bivouacked for the night, 3 miles from Summerville. The command marched on this day 59 miles, captured one government wagon, which was afterward burnt, 15 prisoners, among whom was one Captain Hubbard.

At 5 a. m. I moved in direction of Rossville, and arrived in camp at 10 p. m.

The prisoners have been turned over to the provost-marshal at Chattanooga. There were no casualties.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. BOONE,
*Colonel, Commanding Detachment.*

Brigadier-General WHIPPLE,
*Chief of Staff, Department of the Cumberland.*

**JANUARY 22, 1864.—Capture of Forage Wagons near Wilsonville, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S Army, commanding Cavalry, Department of the Ohio.

No. 2.—Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division.

No. 3.—Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Department of the Ohio.*

HDQRS. CHIEF OF CAVALRY, DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
*Sevierville, Tenn., January 25, 1864.*

GENERAL: A small party from Colonel McCook's command yesterday captured a small wagon train loaded with supplies for Morristown, and captured also 19 prisoners, consisting of 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, and 17 privates. General Elliott's division has captured in all, since we reached this side the river, some 75 prisoners. I am sending a detachment to-day to destroy the pontoon across mouth of Chucky. General Potter and Captain Gouraud are here.

Respectfully,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry.*

Maj. Gen. J. G. FOSTER.

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No. 2.

*Reports of Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
*January 22, 1864.*

GENERAL: I send the orderly, who knows the road to my headquarters. A scouting party of the First Tennessee captured a Captain Bennett, commissary on General Benning's staff, Hood's division, and 7 men who were out looking for forage.

The First Tennessee and Colonel Palmer's force are out after a forage train, and I think will get them, unless the guard is too strong. I will move my command before day, so that their withdrawal will not be noticed from the other side.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD M. McCOOK,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brigadier-General ELLIOTT,
*Commanding Cavalry.*

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BREMNER'S CHURCH, TENN.,
*January 23, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: Your order for destroying the pontoon was received at 3 p. m. The party detailed (200 strong) started at 4. Miller's scout

was not here. The detachment is in command of Major Kimmel, a good officer, provided with an efficient guide, and will execute your order if possible.

There is no pontoon at the mouth of the Chucky. I am informed there was one 3 miles above the mouth; another 12 miles above that. It will be necessary to cross the French Broad to get at either of them. Even with bridges destroyed, there is no difficulty in crossing with infantry and artillery, or trains. The guide, Mr. Inman, tells me that there are half a dozen excellent fords, both above and below the bridges, that can be crossed at this stage of the river without finding water more than knee deep to a man.

The total result of the expedition yesterday was 22 wagons with their teams, and 90 prisoners, 2 captains and lieutenant.

My headquarters are on the Dougherty road, about opposite Fair Garden. Your dispatch of 2.30 p. m. is just received (5.40 p. m.). Colonel La Grange with all his brigade not barefooted, is away in the direction of Wilsonville, and the guides, who know the ford roads, with him. I took the responsibility of sending him out this morning in order to keep the rebels from crossing into the bottoms. I can procure no other guides, and cannot move until to-morrow morning at daylight. I will suggest to Wolford that he move on the main road at the same time, and effect a junction with me at Wilsonville. I ordered La Grange to destroy the boats at Hays' Ferry if he could get them. I will have full information from him and from Dandridge to-night.

EDWARD M. McCOOK,
*Colonel, Commanding Division.*
J. A. S. MITCHELL,
*Capt. and Actg. Aide-de-Camp, in absence of Colonel McCook.*

Capt. W. C. RAWOLLE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*ADDENDA.*

HDQRS. CHIEF OF CAVALRY, DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
*Sevierville, Tenn., January 25, 1864.*

Col. E. M. McCOOK,
*Comdg. Cav. Div., Dept. of the Cumberland:*

COLONEL: The general commanding the cavalry instructs me to say that it gives him great pleasure to send you the following extract of a letter, written by order of Major-General Foster, commanding the department:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
*Knoxville, January 23, 1864.*

Brigadier-General STURGIS,
*Commanding Cavalry:*

SIR: By direction of the general commanding I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by him of your dispatch announcing the capture of train of the enemy by Colonels McCook and Palmer, and to express to you his gratification and to ask you to make in his name the proper compliments to Colonels McCook and Palmer and the officers and men serving under them.

JAMES H. STRONG,
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Inspector-General.*

You will please to publish this very complimentary notice of the major-general commanding to your command in orders.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. C. RAWOLLE,
*Captain and Aide-de-Camp.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army.*

HEADQUARTERS, *January* 25, 1864.

Twenty-eight of our wagons were captured on the south side of French Broad on the 22d. They were foraging and had neglected to get the usual guards. General Martin captured 800 beef-cattle, and reports 200 wagons abandoned and destroyed by the enemy in the retreat to Knoxville. We lost our teams with our wagons, and got none to replace them. Major Day made an advance upon Tazewell yesterday. He found the fortifications and forces stronger than was expected, and after a skirmish retired. We lost 1 man, killed; captured 12.

J. LONGSTREET,
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

General S. COOPER,
*Richmond, Va.*

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**JANUARY 22, 1864.—Affair at Subligna, Ga.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Alfred Iverson, C. S. Army.*

ROME, GA.,
*January* 23, 1864.

Dispatch received states enemy surprised Culberson's command (Georgia State Guards) last night, 7 o'clock. Thinks they retired toward La Fayette.

A. IVERSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

General JOHNSTON.

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**JANUARY 22-27, 1864.—Expedition from Union City to Trenton, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. George E. Waring, jr., Fourth Missouri Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Brigade.**

TRENTON, TENN.,
*January* 27, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to the order of the commanding general, I marched my command at 7.30 a. m., January 22, from Union City toward Sharp's Ferry, on the Obion River. The road in places was very bad. The marching column reached the vicinity of Sharp's

* See also Waring's report of Smith's expedition, etc., p. 262.

Ferry before night, but the rear of the supply trains was still stuck in the mud, 4 miles from our starting place. I pressed teams and sent back to lighten loads, but nothing could be done that night, as men and animals were exhausted. The river at the ferry was choked with floating ice, the rope broken, and the boat filled with ice and water and in very bad condition. It was nearly daylight before we could commence crossing, and on account of the damaged condition of the boat only 8 horses could be crossed at a time.

Afternoon, January 23, the ice accumulated again, blocked up the river, broke the rope and stopped the crossing for over two hours. At night I received information that the supply trains had all got together at Troy, at which place the Seventh Indiana Cavalry (from Hickman) had joined the command as it marched through. I had placed Colonel Kargé (Second New Jersey Cavalry) in charge of the ferry, and at 9 p. m. the Second Illinois and Nineteenth Pennsylvania pioneer corps and a portion of the Fourth Missouri having crossed, I crossed myself and came ahead to decide on the road to be taken and to send the pioneers ahead. I found the bottom on this side of the river in a horrible condition, and the river and sloughs rising very fast. Just before striking the highland (2 miles from the ferry) I found a place where the water was from 3 to 4 feet deep for a distance of 60 yards, and was covered with 3 inches of ice. Those who had first crossed had cut their way through, and the ice had been pushed on and packed in the channel near the shore, so that for a distance of 20 feet we had to plunge through a mass of ice and water in which horses and men fell and struggled (sometimes head and all under) until they could get out. For the next 3 miles to the ridges more than half of the road is very bad, and it was with the greatest difficulty that we got through with the three wagons which had been crossed with the Second Illinois and the pioneers. They had to be unloaded and drawn through the sloughs with picket ropes.

During the night of the 23d and the day following, the Seventh Indiana crossed with its ambulances. By this time the river had risen to such an extent that the horses had to be landed in 3 feet of water.

During the night of the 24th and until noon of the 25th, we were trying to establish a new ferry farther down the river, but the constant rising of the river rendered this impossible. As Colonel Kargé was cut off from all possibility of communicating with me except by Colonel Shanks, of the Seventh Indiana Cavalry, who was the last man to cross, he sent me word by him that he should go back to Jacksonville, and thence by Dresden and Huntingdon to Jackson, unless he heard from me again. He has taken the best course, and has the energy to get through if any man can. I have now sent Colonel Shanks with the Seventh Indiana and Nineteenth Pennsylvania to hold the crossings at Mount Pinson and Bolivar. The Second Illinois Cavalry is stationed at the bridge at Rodgers' Mill, near Spring Creek, and will hold the bridge and run the mill until I come up. I am now going back to Dresden by the best road I can find (probably rebuilding King's Bridge with the pioneer corps). I shall bring my train through as fast as possible, and to this end I am pressing all the trains I can find in the country. I have been compelled to disobey the order to take a road west of the Columbus and Corinth road, and I cannot get through within the time specified in your conversation with me.

Had we got across the Obion before it commenced to rise we could have gone by the way of Dyersburg, and should have had no difficulty in going as far as the Hatchie River beyond what would have resulted from the bad condition of the roads. As the streams to the east of us are now falling rapidly, and the roads are drying up, we may be able to get through reasonably fast.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. WARING, JR.,
*Col. 4th Mo. Cav., Comdg. Cav. Brig., 6th Div., 16th A. C.*

Capt. J. HOUGH,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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## JANUARY 23, 1864.—Skirmish near Newport, Tenn.

### REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Department of the Ohio.

No. 2.—Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, First Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland.

### No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Department of the Ohio.*

SEVIERVILLE, TENN., *January* 24, 1864.

GENERAL: I have just returned from Fair Garden and McCook's position near Dandridge.

Yesterday I ordered a party of 150 men under Major Kimmel to attempt the destruction of a pontoon bridge reported to be near the mouth of the Chucky. The party returned early this morning, having gone up the Chucky some 3 miles, but found no pontoon. The Chucky is very low and fordable at nearly all points.

Yesterday evening Colonel La Grange (First Wisconsin) was sent with his brigade to intercept a reported train of wagons (said to be 100) with infantry escort near Newport, and conveying forage to Morristown. The colonel has returned, but found no wagons. He captured 15 prisoners. Both these scouting parties examined the country with a view to its resources of forage, &c., going into and through the Dutch and Irish bottoms, and report that the forage has been nearly all hauled by the enemy to the north side of the river, where it is protected by strong guards of infantry. Colonel La Grange estimates that in what was reported to be the richest portion of the valley a division of cavalry could not subsist longer than three days. From these reports it will be seen that there is nothing left for this force but to settle about this place until it shall have exhausted the country, which will be but a short time. What is to do then it is difficult to say.

I do not know that it can be avoided, but I may say that it is a pity that circumstances should compel us to entirely exhaust the country of these loyal people. If we remain here long they must suffer, and it will be impossible for them to raise anything next

year. The necessity for pressing supplies leads so immediately to plundering that soldiers find no difficulty in taking the step from the one to the other, and in spite of all I can do to the contrary. It is distressing to witness the sufferings of these people at the hands of the friends for whom they have been so long and so anxiously looking. You cannot help it; neither can I, and I only refer to it because my heart is full of it.

Respectfully,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

P. S.—The enemy has made repeated attempts to cross to this side, but have been driven back in every attempt. The infantry of the enemy was sent back to Morristown on Monday morning last.

S. D. S.

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No. 2.

*Report of Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, First Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Near Fain's Ford, Tenn., January 23, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that the scout from the Second Brigade proceeded by way of Dutch Bottom through Irish Bottom to the house of William Jack, 2½ miles from Newport. At this point about 300 of the enemy were found drawn up in an advantageous position, and it being near night and our horses somewhat jaded it was not deemed prudent to attack him.

One of the enemy's outposts was attacked, 3 killed and 16 with arms and horses captured. No loss sustained by the scouting party. Only about 3,000 bushels of corn observed on the entire route.

Most respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Cav. Div., Dept. of the Cumberland.*

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**JANUARY 23, 1864.—Affair near Woodville, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Charles R. Woods, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.*

WOODVILLE, ALA.,
*January 26, 1864.*

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that on Saturday night, the 23d instant, about 9 o'clock, a party of rebels, about 60 in number,

made a descent upon the corral of unserviceable animals under charge of the division quartermaster and drove off a portion of them besides taking off 17 citizen teamsters. The number of animals now missing is about 90, but I have reliable information that only about 40 were got across the river. The division quartermaster has parties out picking up the animals, and I have no doubt will succeed in picking them up. The corral is situated by the side of the railroad, about 3 miles east of Woodville, and within 400 yards of the railroad guard of 25 men and between their post and this station. The animals and teamsters were taken by a bridle-path over the mountain within 2 miles of Woodville. The existence of this path was not known. The rebels kept on the summit of the mountains, avoiding the roads, and crossed at a ferry about 4 miles below Larkin's Ferry. They reached the ferry about daylight.

Owing to the fact that all the teamsters were taken away, and that 3 or 4 men were left at the corral to prevent a citizen giving the alarm, I did not get the information until about 10 o'clock a. m.

I immediately sent out Lieutenant-Colonel Gage, assistant inspector-general, with about 60 mounted artillerymen, in pursuit, with instructions to take the trail and follow as fast as possible. I sent Lieutenant Lacey with 20 mounted infantry in the direction of Guntersville and Major Seay with 200 infantry in the same direction to support either party. As the enemy had in all probability crossed the river by the time the pursuing parties started, the pursuit was fruitless.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. R. WOODS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. R. R. TOWNES,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**JANUARY 23, 1864.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Ripley, Miss.**

*Report of Col. Edward Prince, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS,
*La Grange, January 23, 1864.*

SIR: A scouting force of this regiment, just back from Ripley, captured 3 prisoners and lost 3, taken prisoners. May I send now flag of truce proffering exchange?

E. PRINCE,
*Colonel Seventh Illinois Cavalry.*

Capt. T. H. HARRIS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Indorsement.]

No.

T. H. HARRIS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

## JANUARY 23–29, 1864.—Operations in North Alabama.

### SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Jan. 25, 1864.—Skirmish at Bainbridge Ferry.
Skirmish near the Sweet Water.
Jan. 26, 1864.—Attack on Athens.
Jan. 29, 1864.—Skirmish near the Tennessee River.
Skirmish near Cobb's Mill.

### REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. John A. Rawlins, U. S. Army, Chief of Staff, Division of the Mississippi.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, U. S. Army, commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps.
No. 3.—Brig. Gen. Charles R. Woods, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.
No. 4.—Col. Abram O. Miller, Seventy-second Indiana Infantry, commanding Second Cavalry Division.
No. 5.—Col. Smith D. Atkins, Ninety-second Illinois Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.
No. 6.—Capt. Matthew Van Buskirk, Ninety-second Illinois Infantry.
No. 7.—Capt. William McCracken, Ninety-eighth Illinois Infantry.
No. 8.—Capt. James E. Robinson, Seventy-second Indiana Infantry.

### No. 1.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. John A. Rawlins, U. S. Army, Chief of Staff, Division of the Mississippi.*

NASHVILLE, TENN.,
*January* 29, 1864.

On the morning of the 25th [26th] the enemy, 600 strong, attacked our garrison, of about 100, at Athens. After a two-hours' fight the enemy was repulsed and driven. Our loss 20; the enemy's much greater. On the 27th [25th] Colonel Miller had a severe fight on this side of Florence, repulsing the enemy. Our loss 15 killed, 25 wounded.

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
*Brigadier-General and Chief of Staff.*

Col. J. C. KELTON.

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NASHVILLE, TENN.,
*February* 2, 1864.

General Dodge reports that on the 28th [29th] ultimo our forces, under Colonel Phillips, drove Roddey to the south side of the Tennessee River, captured all his trains, consisting of over 20 mule teams, 200 head of cattle, 600 head of sheep, and about 100 head of horses and mules, and destroyed a factory and mill which had largely supplied him.

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
*Brigadier-General and Chief of Staff.*

Col. J. C. KELTON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 2.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, U. S. Army, commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

PULASKI, *January* 26, 1864.

Monday morning my mounted force, which included most of garrison at Athens, moved on Roddey's force, west of Florence. Last night Colonel Hannon, with about 600 men and 2 pieces of artillery, crossed river at Brown's Ferry, which is 10 miles below Decatur and 12 miles from Athens, and at 4 a. m. attacked Athens and some of my bridge parties near Athens. We had about 100 men. After two hours' fighting the rebels were repulsed, and retreated on Wood Ferry. Our loss is 20; the enemy's much larger. The bridge parties are all right, and before this the enemy is south of the Tennessee. They got news some way of our move, and no doubt expected to take Athens, stores, and trains, but they have gone back badly whipped. Our trains all safe.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieutenant-Colonel BOWERS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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PULASKI, *January* 26, 1864.

All my mounted force started Monday morning [25th] to attack Roddey's command in Colbert Reserve, leaving but a small force at Athens. Colonel Hannon crossed the Tennessee River last night at Brown's Ferry, and attacked Athens at 4 a. m. to-day, and after two hours' fighting he was repulsed with considerable loss, and retreated toward Brown's Ferry. At the time that the enemy crossed the river Colonel Phillips' messenger to our forces was at Athens notifying them he was 5 miles beyond Elk River. He no doubt by this time is in their rear or flank. Captain Adam sent all out of town and shelled with his men, 75 all told. Hannon had two pieces of artillery with him. The bridge parties are all safe. Our loss is about 20, all told.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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PULASKI, *January* 26, 1864.

Colonel Miller had a severe fight this side of Florence yesterday. Our loss, 15 killed, 25 wounded. The enemy were repulsed, and several prisoners taken. Prisoners say Corinth has been abandoned and burned. I think all the mounted force we can raise should be immediately sent to Florence and Colbert Reserve, and clear out the enemy. They are getting too strong in there for our safety on the railroad, and unless we get them out and keep them employed they will pick up some of our working parties. If we could take and hold Decatur it would make us all safe, and keep them at proper distance.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieutenant-Colonel BOWERS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HDQRS. LEFT WING, SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS.
*Pulaski, Tenn., January* 29, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that General Roddey, with Patterson's and Hannon's regiments and two pieces of artillery, attacked Athens, Ala., on January 26, at 4 a. m., opening upon the town without any notice with his artillery, the shot and shell going through several houses occupied by citizens, and after two hours' fighting was repulsed and defeated by Captain Adam and 75 men of the Ninth Illinois Mounted Infantry, that being all the force then at the post.

The plan of the attack, as has since been ascertained by captured dispatches, was as follows:

Colonel Johnson and his brigade, stationed near Florence, was to move upon the Florence and Athens road and attack the town from the northwest, while General Roddey in person, with the forces above named, was to cross the Tennessee River at Brown's Ferry, 18 miles from Athens and 10 miles below Decatur, with his men dismounted.

The movement of Johnson was defeated by Colonel Miller, of the Second Division, Army of the Cumberland, who fought and checked him at Shoal Creek bridge, 35 miles west of Athens, the evening before the attack. The force at Athens with a force from Pulaski had moved out toward Florence the day before the attack for the purpose of driving Johnson's force across the Tennessee River. General Roddey did not know of this and moved up in accordance with the plan, but hearing of the force to the west of him and getting Colonel Johnson's dispatch that he could not support him, as he was checked by a heavy force in front, he retreated. We had no force to follow him. Captain Adam and his men displayed great coolness and judgment and fought with determined bravery, checking General Roddey's command and holding them some two hours, enabling us thereby to send off all stores and transportation.

The noble conduct of these troops saved all of our bridge parties, both north and south of Athens, as well as all the structures lately put up. Had the attack succeeded it would have been very detrimental to us, and have delayed the opening of the road for a long time. I think such instances of the repulse of so large a force by so few men, without fortifications or artillery, very seldom occur, and must redound to the great credit of our arms while it equally disgraces the enemy.

Our loss was about 20 killed, wounded, and missing.

The force at Mooresville under Colonel Biggs was notified of the attack at sunrise by Major Park, superintendent of repairs on railroad, who urged that officer to fall on the rear of the enemy at Brown's Ferry by a road leading direct to that place down the river. Had this been done the entire force of the enemy would have been captured.

Lieutenant-Colonel Phillips heard of the contemplated attack and returned promptly, making direct for Brown's Ferry, but his advance arrived there only just in time to see the last of the rebels over. He marched all night and day until he arrived on the ground.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HDQRS. LEFT WING, 16TH ARMY CORPS,
*Pulaski, Tenn., February* 1, 1864.

GENERAL: I am in receipt of yours of January 30, and, so far as driving the enemy south of the Tennessee, I have anticipated your orders. The force sent by General Thomas struck the enemy on this side of Florence, skirmished with him, drove him back, and returned to Huntsville, still leaving the enemy on this side of the river. I immediately fitted up what mounted men I could, preferring to take the chances of getting whipped in the offensive to standing here to be attacked at the pleasure of Roddey. This force moved out under Lieutenant-Colonel Phillips Thursday [28th] morning, struck the enemy Friday [29th] noon, and continued driving him Friday night. Johnson's brigade, of Roddey's division, recrossed to the south side of the river, Colonel Phillips pressing them so hard that he captured all their trains—some 20 mule teams, 200 head of cattle, 600 head of sheep, and about 100 head of horses and mules. He also burned Foster's factory and mill which had supplied them. This has cleared the north side of the river.

The point we should, in my opinion, seize upon as soon as possible and hold is Decatur. It is the best point to obtain information of movements of the enemy from as well as for our cavalry to operate from either southeast or west, and I do not believe this line of communication can be successfully used unless that point is held.

I notice what you say in relation to movements of Generals Sherman, Logan, &c., all new to me, and explains the movements of troops toward Mobile, which I telegraphed you yesterday and to-day. There is no doubt but a considerable force has gone in that direction. I think, however, only one division and one brigade have left Johnston.

You are aware that I have guarded our lines of communication for a long time, and I trust when the campaign opens General Grant will see fit to allow me to take part in it. I am always willing and cheerfully acquiesce in any duties assigned me, but like all others sometimes have a preference. I trust you will not consider it as out of place for me to express the above wish. I judge from your letter that the present movement is only temporary.

The reports and movements of the enemy look as though Johnston was now south of the Etowah River.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
*Chief of Staff.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Charles R. Woods, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Woodville, Ala., January* 30, 1864.

MAJOR: The party of 50 men sent out by me day before yesterday to scout through the country lying between Paint Rock and Flint River and down to the Tennessee has just returned. The lieuten-

ant commanding reports that he met a party of rebels, about 20 in number, yesterday morning at 3 a. m., and had a brisk little skirmish with them, between Vienna and the Tennessee River, near Cobb's Mill. The rebels were driven back and dispersed, seeking shelter in the mountains. No casualties among our men, and none known of among the rebels.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. R. WOODS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. R. R. TOWNES,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., 15th Army Corps, Huntsville, Ala.*

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No. 4.

*Reports of Col. Abram O. Miller, Seventy-second Indiana Infantry, commanding Second Cavalry Division.*

BLUE WATER,
*January* 26, 1864.

GENERAL: A portion of Roddey's command, Johnson's brigade, crossed the Tennessee River at Bainbridge, 6 miles above Newport Ferry, and 3 miles below Florence, with the intention to make a junction with a brigade of infantry, who were expected to cross the river at Lamb's and Brown's Ferries, thence proceed to Athens to capture the force occupying the same. We engaged the enemy near Florence, routed them, killed 15; wounded quite a number, who we have in our possession. We have a number of prisoners, among whom are 3 commissioned officers. Captain Ingram, commanding a battalion, is among the killed. Our loss is 10 wounded, 1 mortally.

Captain Smith, Company B, Ninety-second Illinois, was severely wounded in the arm.

Prisoners report Corinth evacuated and burned.

Very respectfully, &c.,

A. O. MILLER,
*Commanding Division Mounted Infantry.*

Brigadier-General WHIPPLE,
*Chief of Staff.*

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HEADQUARTERS SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Huntsville, Ala., January* 28, 1864.

GENERAL: In obedience to orders received from you I proceeded with a portion of the Third Brigade, Colonel Atkins commanding.

On the 25th, at Bainbridge Ferry, 6 miles above Florence, we came upon a portion of Johnson's brigade crossing the Tennessee River. After a sharp skirmish those who had crossed the river took to the hills. I learned from prisoners taken that the balance of the brigade was crossing the river below Florence for some purpose. I started the command at once for that place. Arriving on the Florence and Athens road I found the vedettes holding in check the enemy. Four

companies of the Ninety-second Illinois Volunteers being ordered forward soon engaged them, and revealed the fact of considerable force being there. The whole command was soon dismounted, and advanced upon the enemy in a piece of woods and some old buildings. After a brisk fire on both sides they broke in confusion, and left their dead and wounded in our hands.

The rebel commanding officer of one of the battalions was killed. I took possession of his orders, with other papers. These, and what I could learn from prisoners, convinced me that the object was to attack Athens. I also learned that a force of two regiments strong of dismounted cavalry was to cross the river at Brown's Ferry and aid in the expedition. As soon as I could collect my wounded and get them in ambulances, and those of the enemy in a house close by, and leaving their dead—15 in number—on the field, I started for Athens, a distance of 40 miles. Just at dark, after going back a distance of 4 miles, I came upon the camp of Lieutenant-Colonel Phillips, Ninth Illinois, who is in command at Athens. After stating to him what my impressions were of the enemy's movements, he at once prepared and started back to Athens. He was to send scouts in advance to the ferry and report back the facts.

I fed my stock and started at midnight for Brown's Ferry or Athens, as I might deem best on the information I would receive on arriving at Rogersville or Lamb's Ferry.

After marching 20 miles Colonel Phillips reported that he had gone in camp at Rogersville; that he could learn nothing of the enemy being across the river, though should such be the case he would inform me at once.

On that information I went in camp at 3 a. m., 26th. At 9 a. m. Colonel Phillips returned with his command, designing to carry out a scout set on foot by General Dodge before I reported to them on January 24.

At 11 a. m., January 26, a courier reported that Athens was attacked by 1,500 infantry and 2 pieces of artillery. I was then 30 miles from Athens and 25 miles from Brown's Ferry, where the enemy had crossed. I returned at once. After crossing Elk River, Colonel Phillips with his command (Ninth Illinois and Eighteenth Wisconsin) was sent upon the river road. I kept the main Athens road. On arriving at the ferry we found the enemy had recrossed.

The enemy did little or no damage at Athens, only capturing 5 prisoners, and did not disturb the bridge on the railroad. I much regret that we did not capture them, which we most assuredly could have done had we not been misinformed or had received information from those who knew the facts.

The force that crossed consisted of a part of Roddey's command. They cross and recross the river from day to day for the purpose of obtaining forage. The main force being at Florence, 45 miles distant, I did not deem it necessary to send a force after them as they can readily recross the river, and could immediately return upon our leaving.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. O. MILLER,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

[Brig. Gen. W. D. WHIPPLE,
*Chief of Staff.*]

No. 5.

*Report of Col. Smith D. Atkins, Ninety-second Illinois Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.*

HDQRS. THIRD BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Huntsville, Ala., January 28, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that, agreeably to order, I marched with my command on the 23d instant in the direction of Florence via Athens. Arriving within 1 mile of Bainbridge Ferry I sent one company of Ninety-second Illinois to the ford, who succeeded in capturing 6 and killing 5 of the enemy. The prisoners captured reported a large force crossing at Florence to co-operate with another column on Athens.

On the morning of the 25th instant, after marching 1½ miles toward Florence, the advance had heavy skirmishing with the enemy posted in a log building. The Ninety-second Illinois was sent immediately in support. The enemy charged them on horseback, but were repulsed with loss. The Seventy-second Indiana, Captain Robinson commanding, and Ninety-eighth Illinois, Captain McCracken commanding, were dismounted and deployed across the road, charged with a shout, routing the enemy, driving him from his position, killing 15, including Lieutenant-Colonel Windes, of Johnson's regiment, Captain Ingram, Fourth Alabama, and a lieutenant, and capturing 1 man and 2 officers.

Orders were found on the body of Captain Ingram showing that he was advancing to co-operate in the attack on Athens.

Our loss was 6 wounded. By command of Col. A. O. Miller, commanding division, the column marched to Athens and reached Huntsville 27th instant.

I inclose copies of reports of Captain Van Buskirk, commanding Ninety-second Illinois; Capt. James E. Robinson, commanding Seventy-second Indiana, and Capt. W. McCracken, Ninety-eighth Illinois Volunteers, which I beg may be taken as part of this report, and to which I refer for more minute details.

I add with pleasure that every man and officer in the brigade did his entire duty during the affair.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

SMITH DYKINS ATKINS,
*Colonel 92d Illinois Volunteers, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. R. P. KENNEDY,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 6.

*Report of Capt. Matthew Van Buskirk, Ninety-second Illinois Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS NINETY-SECOND ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
*Huntsville, Ala., January 27, 1864.*

SIR: I respectfully submit the following report:

The Ninety-second Illinois marched from camp near Huntsville on the 23d instant with 22 officers and 343 enlisted men for Florence via Athens, Ala.

On the 25th instant Company I (Captain Becker) made a dash on Bainbridge Ferry, capturing the enemy's pickets, 6 men, and killing 5 [men] and some 25 horses. Owing to the difficulty of approach and

their position being covered by their sharpshooters, the balance made their escape. Resuming our march, we came upon the enemy in force near Sweet Water in strong position, their center being posted in and around buildings, and their flanks approachable only over an open field, while they were sheltered by woods. They charged us on horseback. We repulsed them and routed them from their position, capturing 1 man, 1 lieutenant, and 1 captain, and killing some 15.

We returned to camp on the 27th, having the following list of casualties.*

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MATTHEW VAN BUSKIRK,
*Captain, Commanding Regiment.*

Lieut. GEORGE B. THATCHER,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 7.

*Report of Capt. William McCracken, Ninety-eighth Illinois Infantry.*

HDQRS. NINETY-EIGHTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
*Huntsville, Ala., January* 28, 1864.

SIR: In obedience to orders received from brigade headquarters I marched with my command January 23, at the time specified, with the brigade, in the direction of Athens; went into camp at the Widow Robertson's, 15 miles from Huntsville.

Next day I proceeded on through Athens toward Rogersville, and camped that night at Lanier's, on the west side of Elk River.

On Monday, the 25th, I started at daylight on the road to Florence without any interruption until we crossed Shoal Creek. Arriving at the cross-road leading to Bainbridge Ferry, I was ordered to take half of my command and proceed on the right of the road to the ferry, which I did, finding no obstacle. The other half of my command was ordered to hold the road to Florence. After returning from the ferry I took up my march with the brigade toward Florence. After proceeding half a mile skirmishing commenced briskly, when I was ordered to dismount and form my battalion on the left of the road, connecting my right with Ninety-second Illinois Volunteers, and charge the enemy on double-quick through an open field to get possession of the woods occupied by the enemy's right, which I did most effectually, killing and wounding many. My loss was none. After the rout of the enemy, I received orders from Colonel Atkins to remount and fall back to the east side of Shoal Creek, where I went into camp.

At 12 p. m. we resumed our march toward Rogersville, and halted at 4 a. m. on the west side of Blue Water. At daylight I marched back toward Florence, and having proceeded about 10 miles received orders to return to Athens, where we arrived at 7 p. m., and returned to Huntsville next day (the 27th instant).

I am, lieutenant, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM McCRACKEN,
*Captain, Commanding Ninety-eighth Illinois.*

Lieut. GEORGE B. THATCHER,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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* Nominal list (omitted) shows 7 wounded.

No. 8.

*Report of Capt. James E. Robinson, Seventy-second Indiana Infantry.*

HDQRS. 72D REGIMENT INDIANA VOLUNTEERS,
*Huntsville, Ala., January 27, 1864.*

SIR: In compliance with your order, I herewith submit a report of the part taken by the detachment of the Seventy-second Indiana Volunteers under my command during the recent expedition in the direction of Florence, Ala.:

In compliance with your order, my detachment, numbering 130 men, marched from camp at Huntsville, Ala., at 1 p. m. on the 23d instant, and camped at dusk same evening within 9 miles of Athens.

Marched at daylight next morning (Sunday, 24th), and reached Athens at 8 a. m. Remained at latter place until 11 a. m., when we took up our line of march on the road leading to Florence; camped same evening on the west side of Elk River, 4 miles east of Rogersville.

Moved again at daylight on morning of 25th (Monday). A half mile west of Rogersville, with my command, agreeably to your order, I left the main road leading to Florence, and proceeding in a southerly direction struck the Tennessee River at Bellevue, on the old steamboat canal at Muscle Shoals. The river at this point is about 1½ miles wide, and through that distance I could not see the enemy on the opposite shore, but their camp-fires, a large number of small boats (probably 100), and several immense cribs of corn (which had been boated across from this shore) were plainly visible on the opposite bank. From Bellevue I proceeded down this side of the Tennessee River for a distance of 8 miles, when we again struck the main Florence road. In the reconnaissance along the river bank I discovered no enemy on this side. I found and destroyed 2 boats and 1 rebel army wagon, which were being used in the transportation of forage and provisions across the river. Upon reaching the main Florence road 10 miles east of Florence I moved forward after the brigade, which had passed some time previously. Four miles farther on, about 3 p. m., we reached Shoal Creek, where I found a part of the Ninety-eighth Illinois on guard, who reported that the head of the column had met a rebel force, and were then skirmishing with them. I put my command on double-quick, and in a few minutes came up with the column, which was halted near the residence of the Widow Huff, 1½ miles west of Shoal Creek. By your order I here dismounted my command and hastened to the front, and formed line of battle on the north side of Florence road, my left resting on the road. The enemy was then firing upon our lines. As soon as our line was formed I was ordered to charge the enemy in the woods in front. My men executed the command in a gallant manner, charging with a yell in the face of the fire from the concealed enemy until we reached the skirt of the woods, where we caught sight of them behind several log buildings and trees in the woods. We opened a brisk fire on them as we advanced, and they soon gave way and ran in several directions through the timber. After passing some 300 yards beyond the position just abandoned by the rebels, your order to halt was received and obeyed. A few moments afterward, at dusk, an order came to about face and march in line of

battle with my command in rear of our brigade; that we were to return to Shoal Creek to camp for the night. We reached the east side of Shoal Creek at 8.30 p. m. and went into camp, with orders to feed, keep our horses saddled, and be ready to march at 12 o'clock same night. Moved at 12 o'clock, as directed, and arrived at a point 5 miles west of Rogersville at 4 a. m. of the 26th, where we went into camp and had breakfast.

At 9 a. m. on 27th resumed march, and proceeded again in the direction of Florence, some 8 miles; then were ordered to countermarch, and by 7 o'clock of same day reached Athens.

Next day (Wednesday 27th) we marched for camp at this place, where we arrived at 2 p. m.

I am happy to say I have no casualties to report in my command.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES E. ROBINSON,
*Captain, Commanding Seventy-Second Indiana.*

Col. SMITH D. ATKINS.
*Commanding Brigade.*

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**JANUARY 24, 1864.—Operations near Natchez, Miss.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Wirt Adams, C. S. Army.*

HAMBURG, *January* 24, 1864.

The detachment under General Griffith captured near Natchez 35 prisoners and 60 drays and teams.

WIRT ADAMS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Col. THOMAS M. JACK.

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**JANUARY 24, 1864.—Capture of Union Pickets at Love's Hill, near Knoxville, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. William Cross, Third Tennessee Infantry.*

HDQRS. THIRD REGIMENT, E. TENN. VOL. INFANTRY,
*Mossy Creek, Tenn., March* 28, 1864.

SIR: In obedience to requirements of existing orders, I herewith report that on the night of January 24, 1864, about 11 o'clock, Capt. John C. Slover, of Company E, and Corpl. John G. Yarnell, Privates Daniel S. Hankins, Abraham Yearout, Samuel Yearout, James M. Hensley, Thomas Yarnell, Shadrach Lee, William H. White were captured by a large force of rebel cavalry, off of picket-post near Love's Hill, 5½ miles northeast of Knoxville, Tenn. Sergt. F. H. Dagley and Private John Weeks were also captured, but made their escape some time afterward.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM CROSS,
*Colonel, Comdg. Third Regt. E. Tenn. Vol. Infantry.*

E. D. TOWNSEND,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.*

**JANUARY 24, 1864.—Skirmish at Tazewell, Tenn.**

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Theophilus T. Garrard, U. S. Army, commanding District of the Clinch.**

CUMBERLAND GAP,
*January* 24, 1864.

The enemy attacked Tazewell at 3 o'clock this morning. Colonel Kise, commanding post Tazewell, telegraphs to me now at 6 a. m.: "The enemy is advancing in large force on the Big Springs and Bear Creek roads, coming from the Clinch." I have sent the Ninety-first Indiana Infantry to Powell's bridge, and ordered Colonel Kise to fall back on Powell's bridge if he is satisfied of the enemy being in large force.

T. T. GARRARD,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

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HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE CLINCH,
*Cumberland Gap, Tenn., January* 25, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that on the 24th instant, at 3 a. m., the enemy, 600 strong, attacked our forces at Tazewell. About 100 made a dash upon the town, but were repulsed.

All is quiet now, and from returning scouting [parties] I learn that there is no enemy nearer than within 2½ miles of Jonesville, where a force was found, number not ascertained.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. T. GARRARD,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding District of the Clinch.*

Brig. Gen. EDWARD E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff to Major-General Foster.*

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**JANUARY 25–FEBRUARY 5, 1864.—Expedition from Scottsborough, Ala., toward Rome, Ga.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, U. S. Army, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Morgan L. Smith, U. S. Army, commanding expedition.

No. 1.

*Report of Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, U. S. Army, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps.*

SCOTTSBOROUGH, ALA.,
*February* 6, 1864.

GENERAL: Last night my troops under General M. L. Smith returned to the river, having gone in the direction of Rome as far as they could on account of forage, &c. They captured some 50-

* See also Foster's report, p. 42.

odd prisoners, destroyed all the niter works at Rawlingsville. Wheeler's force is at Gadsden. Quite a force of the enemy have concentrated at Kingston, and quite a number have passed through Montgomery to Mobile some three weeks since. There is no forage or subsistence after leaving the Tennessee until you reach the Coosa. What is there is being removed as rapidly as possible. I leave a force at the river, and will send out again soon in that direction. I think the object has been accomplished, however. I leave for Huntsville this morning and push the work on the road between Huntsville and Decatur as rapidly as possible. A great many Alabamians in the country desire to enlist in the Alabama regiment. They have shown themselves very useful men. If I had the authority I could fill the regiment and use them to a good purpose. They are the best scouts I ever saw, and know the country well clear to Montgomery. My veterans are very anxious to go home. Have heard nothing from General Thomas; I know nothing of his movements on the La Fayette road, &c.

JNO. A. LOGAN,
*Major-General.*

Brigadier-General RAWLINS,
*Chief of Staff.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Morgan L. Smith, U. S. Army, commanding expedition.*

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Larkin's Landing, Ala., February 5,* 1864.

MAJOR: In obedience to orders from General Logan, received on the 25th ultimo, the Eighth Missouri Volunteers took the pontoon-boats out of Mud Creek, thence down the Tennessee to Larkin's Landing, where, under the superintendence of Captain Jenney, of General Sherman's staff, the pioneers of my own and General Ewing's division constructed a bridge. Upon the arrival of the boats at 8 p. m. of the 26th, I immediately ferried over six regiments of my division to endeavor by a rapid movement to carry out your views and capture some of the pickets operating in the valley of the Tennessee, arresting conscripts, and intercepting deserters from the army about Dalton.

The crossing was effected and the horses swum over by 9.30 p. m. The command was divided into three parts. Two regiments, under Colonel Parry, Forty-seventh Ohio Volunteers, moved down the river to surround a camp between Santa and Town Creeks. One, under Colonel Jones, proceeded to Gourd Neck, in the mountains, and the third, under Major Froman, One hundred and sixteenth Illinois Volunteers, which I accompanied, made a forced march to Smith's Gap, in Sand Mountain, about 12 miles from the landing, to intercept any fugitives from the valley. These gaps were occupied by 2 a. m., and the combined movements resulted in the capture of 1 lieutenant, 8 privates, and several guerrillas. Many shots were exchanged in the night, and some horses killed and captured. We returned to the landing next day and completed the bridge. This movement created great consternation among the guilty and caused a general stampede of citizens, negroes, and horses for the other side of the Coosa River. It also enabled men to come out of the

fastnesses of Sand Mountain who had been secreted a great part of the time for two years, several of whom have since raised companies for the First Alabama Cavalry, and some have enlisted in infantry regiments. One man, McCurdy, immediately after our second advance, mustered his company with a pencil on brown paper, christened it, assumed command, ordered an advance into Sand Mountain, and actually made captures of rebel home guards in the same hiding-places they had themselves just vacated. These loyal Alabamians are invaluable, and exceed in number and are equal in zeal to anything we discovered in East Tennessee.

In obedience to your instructions, I left for Lebanon on the Rome road Monday morning (the rain falling in torrents), having been joined by a brigade from each of the First and Fourth Divisions and A and H batteries, First Illinois Light Artillery, a part of the Fifteenth Michigan Mounted Infantry, a part of the Fifth Ohio Cavalry, and Captain Allen's company, First Alabama Cavalry, from Bridgeport. The road was so bad that I followed your suggestion and sent back all of our wheeled vehicles from Gourd Neck, and it was all they could do to reach the river through the bottom. The infantry then took the direct road to Lebanon, arriving there Tuesday at 12 o'clock. The cavalry, under command of Colonel Oliver, Fifteenth Michigan, marched toward Guntersville, having frequent skirmishes and some fine races with that of the enemy. Arriving within a few miles of Guntersville and finding that the place had been hastily evacuated, Colonel Oliver swung round toward the Lebanon road, communicated with me at Town Creek, and then moved rapidly to Lebanon, where he captured 1 lieutenant, and 2 stations of courier-line from Dalton to Decatur, a sergeant-major, about a dozen privates, and $5,700 Confederate money, which proved to have been a State fund for the relief of soldiers' families. From Lebanon I sent the Fifteenth Michigan Mounted Infantry to Rawlingsville to try to communicate with General Thomas' right. They failed in this, but destroyed a quite extensive niter-works in the vicinity, and captured 1 officer and 7 privates.

On Wednesday morning the enemy appeared in force on the Rome road. Colonel Stone's brigade, First Division, moved out on the main road, and Colonels Oliver and Heath reconnoitered his position on the right with the cavalry force. A few shots were exchanged at long range, when the enemy retired slowly, and as their mounted force was evidently far superior to ours and increasing, I declined to order a pursuit. I commenced the return at 1 o'clock and arrived at the bridge at Larkin's Landing this evening, February 5.

The results of the expedition I considered important. Many of the Home Guards, including 1 officer, have resumed their allegiance by taking the amnesty oath, and the always-loyal people of this part of Alabama have learned from the general good conduct of the men who their real friends are. My thanks are due to Major Wheaton and Captain Hotaling, of General Logan's staff, for willing and valuable assistance.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

MORGAN L. SMITH,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Commanding Expedition.*

Maj. R. R. TOWNES,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

## JANUARY 26–28, 1864.—Operations about Dandridge, Tenn.

### SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Jan. 26, 1864.—Skirmishes at Flat Creek and Muddy Creek.
27, 1864.—Skirmishes at Kelley's Ford and McNutt's Bridge. Engagement near Fair Garden.
28, 1864.—Skirmishes at Fain's Island, Indian Creek, Island Ford, Kelley's Ford, and Swann's Island.

### REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Ohio.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of the Ohio.
No. 3.—Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland.
No. 4.—Col. Archibald P. Campbell, Second Michigan Cavalry, commanding First Brigade.
No. 5.—Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade.
No. 6.—Capt. Eli Lilly, Eighteenth Indiana Battery.
No. 7.—Col. Israel Garrard, Seventh Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Cavalry Division, Army of the Ohio.
No. 8.—Maj. Edward G. Savage, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry.
No. 9.—Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army.

### No. 1.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Ohio.*

KNOXVILLE, TENN.,
*January* 27, 1864.

The enemy's cavalry are pressing General Sturgis quite vigorously between Sevierville and Newport, but he holds his ground. Longstreet, with all his infantry, are at Morristown and Russellville in winter quarters. The re-enforcements received by him consist of Pickett's division of his corps. He has no apparent idea of advancing before spring. My own situation is secure, and the communication to the rear is well guarded. The supplies received from our depots at Chattanooga and Camp Burnside would be entirely inadequate were it not for the supplies gleaned from the country by our distributed parties. I am pushing work on Loudon bridge. Colonel McCallum has arrived, and will also go to work on the road. With this road and the road via Decatur opened, supplies may be accumulated for trains for campaign in the spring. I am sending all broken-down animals to the rear for forage.

J. G. FOSTER,
*Major-General.*

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

*See also Foster's report, p. 42.

NASHVILLE, TENN.,
*January* 29, 1864. (Received 10 p. m.)

Maj. Gen. J. G. Foster telegraphs from Knoxville, Tenn., under date 9 a. m. 28th, as follows:

I have the honor to report that the cavalry under General Sturgis achieved a decided victory over the enemy's cavalry yesterday near Fair Garden, about 10 miles east of Sevierville. McCook's division drove the enemy about 2 miles, after a stubborn fight, lasting from daylight to 4 p. m., at which time the division charged with the saber and a yell, and routed the enemy from the field, capturing 2 steel rifled-guns and over 100 prisoners. The enemy's loss was considerable, 65 of them being killed or wounded in the charge. Garrard's and Wolford's divisions came up, after a forced march, in time to be pushed in pursuit, although their horses were jaded. General Sturgis hoped to be able to make the rout complete

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
*Brigadier-General and Chief of Staff.*

Col. J. C. KELTON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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KNOXVILLE, *January* 30, 1864—10 a. m.
(Received February 1.)

General Sturgis pushed the pursuit of Morgan's rebel division until he broke it up entirely, but Armstrong's division took position and with infantry supports repulsed the attack of Wolford's division. In the mean time several brigades of infantry, having crossed the river below Dandridge, forced back McCook's and Garrard's divisions. General Sturgis then withdrew his whole command toward Maryville. I have now sent him orders to move all his best mounted men (which I hope to make up to 1,500 or 2,000) to make a raid on Longstreet's rear, and to attempt Saltville. As he cannot go by the eastward he will move by the west, passing Cumberland Gap, Jonesville, &c. Otherwise, all is quiet as usual.

I have received no answer to my application for sick leave. My knee-joint is becoming more and more painful, and I am fearful that permanent lameness or loss of the limb may ensue if I do not have something done soon.

J. G. FOSTER,
*Major-General.*

Major-General GRANT.

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No. 2.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of the Ohio.*

SEVIERVILLE, TENN.,
*January* 26, 1864—8.30 p. m.

GENERAL: The enemy advanced this afternoon, from the direction of Fair Garden, two brigades with artillery. We checked him some 4 miles from this place, at Dickey's. Colonel Wolford, however,

who was posted in what is called the Flat Creek road, some 6 miles from here, at a place called Fowler's, was attacked by Armstrong's division and was driven back, when last heard from, some 2 miles.

Many of his men came into this place, and report that the enemy had infantry. Colonel Garrard, who was stationed at Tom Evans', on the French Broad, guarding the fords, has been ordered down to Wolford's assistance. Wolford's division is so greatly reduced that it only numbers at most 900 men, and I think that is a large estimate.

I am sending an order to the footmen who left Knoxville this morning to march all night and get up if possible, but I fear they will not get up, as Colonel Butler says that the communication addressed to him from your office was opened by the officer in command, and that it is more than probable he halted soon after leaving Knoxville.

The enemy is evidently very strong, and exultant over their last few days' operations.

We will do the best we can, but I do not feel like promising much.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry.*

General E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff, Knoxville.*

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HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
*Dickey's House, January 27*, 1864—12.45 p. m.

GENERAL: Last evening Colonel Wolford fell back to within 2 miles of Sevierville, and there remained. The force on the Fair Garden road was held in check by Colonel Campbell's brigade, and I brought Colonel La Grange's brigade back to within 2 miles of Sevierville. Colonel Garrard remained at Nichols' watching the river road, and I moved up the troops which were watching the fords below the Little Pigeon to Cannon's, on the Little Pigeon. Learning that the enemy had concentrated on this (Fair Garden) road, I directed Colonel McCook to attack him at daybreak. The morning was very foggy, and not much could be done. We have driven the enemy, however, a couple of miles, and I have just sent La Grange up the left-hand road from this place toward Fair Garden. Campbell is on the main road, and I am looking for Wolford to come in on the left. How affairs will turn out it is hard to say, but we hope to whip them. The guns are just opening good, and I will have to cease. I will inclose a rough sketch,* so that you can follow the movements I have spoken of.

Yours, &c.,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff, Knoxville.*

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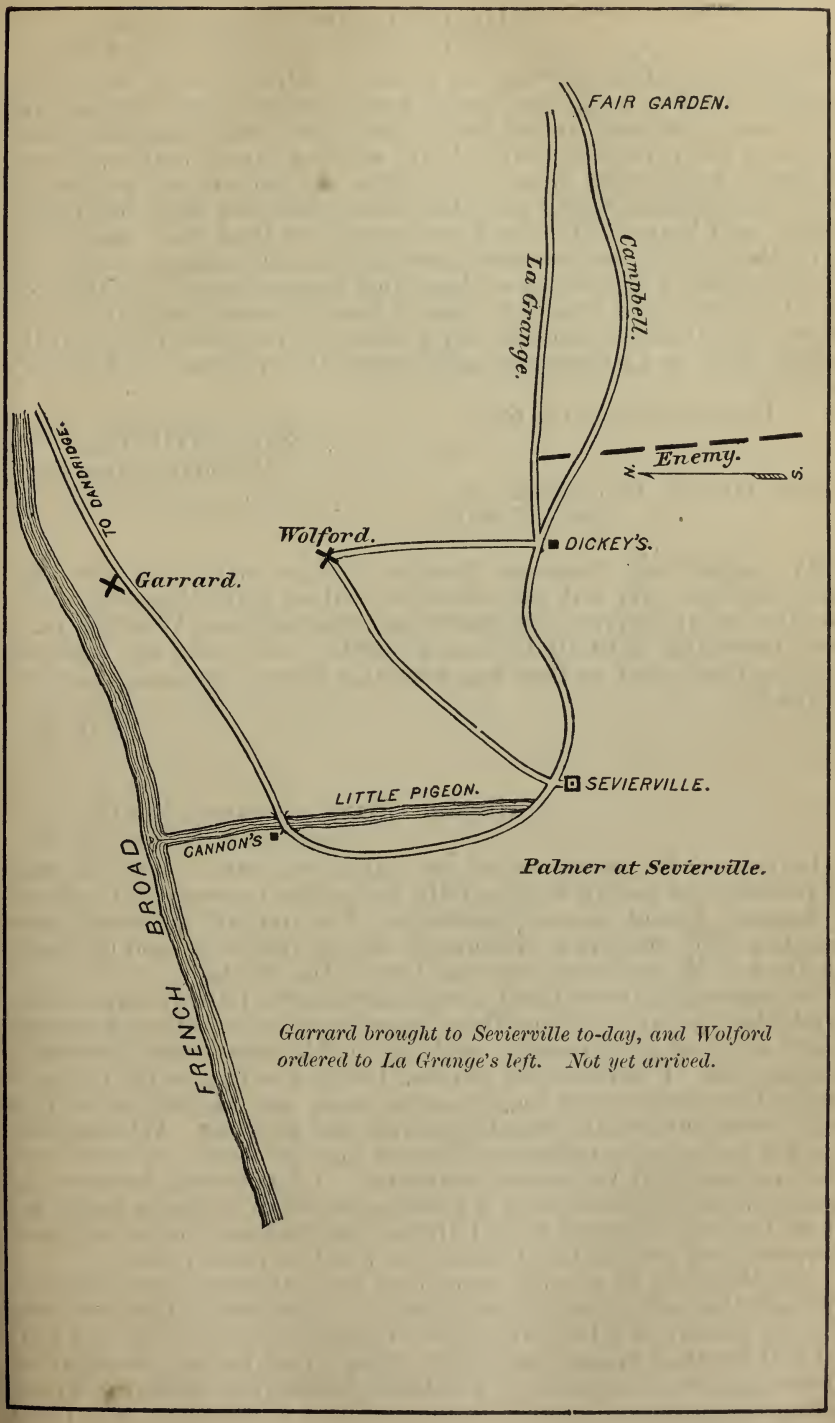
*See p. 133.


FAIR GARDEN.
La Grange.
Campbell.
Enemy.
N.
S.
TO DANDRIDGE.
Wolford.
DICKEY'S.
Garrard.
LITTLE PIGEON.
SEVIERVILLE.
CANNON'S
Palmer at Sevierville.
FRENCH BROAD
Garrard brought to Sevierville to-day, and Wolford ordered to La Grange's left. Not yet arrived.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
*Dickey's, January 27, 1864—6 p. m.*

GENERAL: After driving the whole cavalry force of the enemy steadily all day long, our troops went in about 4 o'clock with the saber and a yell and routed them, horse, foot, and dragoon, capturing over 100 prisoners, which I am sending down, and 2 pieces of artillery, 3-inch steel guns. Our troops are very much worn down with continuous fighting and little to eat, but they are a band of as patient and brave soldiers as I have ever seen thus far. Some 50 or 60 of the enemy were wounded and killed in the charge alone. In the whole day's fighting their loss must be very large. As Wolford and Garrard were brought from a long distance, they fell in as reserves, so that this glorious day's work was performed alone by the gallant men of La Grange's and Campbell's brigades, of McCook's division.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

My gallant aide, Captain Rawolle, charged with line and captured a horse. We will pursue them until we drive them out of the country, or are driven out ourselves. Garrard and Wolford have been marching hard all day and yesterday too; but I am pushing them up now, tired as they are, with the hope of making this rout complete.

S. D. S.

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HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
*January 29, 1864—9 a. m.*

GENERAL: In pursuance of my intentions, when I wrote last, we pursued the enemy very rapidly yesterday morning to the river at Swann's Island, above Dandridge. The rout of the enemy was complete, and Morgan's division is utterly destroyed and Generals Martin and Morgan both reported lost by the rebels.

On reaching the river I sent a reconnaissance to Fain's Island, below Dandridge, where we found three brigades of rebel infantry crossed to this side and still crossing, wading with knapsacks and overcoats strapped on. I determined at once that it was impossible for us to occupy this country any longer, as the men and animals were perfectly worn out from constant marching and fighting. Without any time for gathering anything, either for man or beast, we could not live here and fight Longstreet's infantry. I determined, however, to destroy Armstrong's division, if possible, before the infantry would get up, as I had just learned from Palmer that it was on the main (river) Newport road near Indian Creek, 3 or 4 miles up the river.

I put Wolford in at once, supported by La Grange, and left Garrard and McCook to watch the infantry. Armstrong, however, was strongly posted on a heavily timbered bank of the creek on a hill, and had fortified himself strongly. Was joined during the fight by three regiments of infantry. The battle lasted until sundown, when, finding the infantry in our rear advancing, I withdrew to this place by way of Fair Garden.

Our loss in this engagement is pretty severe ; about 8 officers that I now know of, and a great many men I fear.

As soon as I determined to vacate the country I ordered everything away from Sevierville—the wagons, &c., to Maryville via Trundle's Cross-Roads; the footmen and captured artillery to Knoxville. I will go down by way of Trotter's Bridge and Wear's Cove for the sake of forage.

It is hard to leave these loyal people to the mercies of the enemy, but it can't be helped. If I had had a division of infantry at Sevierville, I could have annihilated both these divisions of rebel cavalry, for the rout was complete and the men scattered beyond all possible hope of reorganization in Morgan's division.

I am, general, very respectfully,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

General E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

We will camp to-night in Wear's Cove and to-morrow night probably in Tuckaleechee Cove.

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HDQRS. CAVALRY CORPS, DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
*Maryville, E. Tenn., February* 4, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this command, consisting of Colonels Wolford's and Garrard's cavalry divisions, Army of the Ohio, and Colonel McCook's cavalry division, Army of the Cumberland, on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of January, 1864:

Having consumed almost all the forage and supplies on the south side of the French Broad River not absolutely necessary for the support of the Union families during the winter, and the enemy's cavalry having crossed the river at Swann's Island Ford, so that we were daily contesting with him for the little forage still remaining inside of his lines, I made the following dispositions of my command on the 26th ultimo: Colonel Garrard with his division picketed all the fords and ferries below Tom Evans' Ford, on the French Broad River, with his reserve in position in rear of Flat Creek; Colonel Wolford with his division was posted on the Flat Creek road near Tom Fowler's house, 6 miles from Sevierville, to be within supporting distance of Colonel Garrard, and vice versa; Colonel Campbell's cavalry brigade of Colonel McCook's division, was in position on the main Sevierville and Newport road, 4 miles from the former place, and Colonel La Grange's brigade, of the same division, was held in readiness 1½ miles from Sevierville, on the main Newport road, to move either to the assistance of Colonels Wolford or Campbell, as might be required by the developments of the enemy's intentions.

In these positions Colonels Wolford and Campbell were attacked, the enemy making no very determined assault. Finding that Colonel Campbell had the rebel cavalry division of General Morgan in his front, and that the force attacking Colonel Wolford was part of the rebel cavalry division of General Armstrong, I determined to strike

first at the force in front of Colonel Campbell (on the main Newport road), and destroy it if possible before the other division could come to its relief.

Early on the morning of the 27th, while a dense fog made it impossible to see but a short distance, Colonel Campbell was ordered to charge a ridge occupied by the enemy on our left, beyond the bend of the Little Pigeon River, near Hodsden's house, which was the key point to the rebel position. Then opening with rifled guns of Captain Lilly's battery, his brigade charged the entire line of the enemy, driving him more than half a mile.

The enemy taking up a new position in rear of the creek crossed by McNutt's Bridge, I now advanced Colonel La Grange's brigade unobserved over a by-road turning off at Dickey's house, 4 miles east of Sevierville on our left, and running nearly parallel with the main Newport road, which it again enters at Jim Walker's, 2½ miles west of Fair Garden. The enemy discovering this flank movement too late to oppose it, fell back rapidly. At the same time I ordered Colonels Wolford and Garrard with their commands (except sufficient force to watch the lower fords and to picket the line from Tom Evans' to Jim Newman's on the Flat Creek road, 4 miles from Sevierville) to hold the position occupied by Colonel McCook's division, to prevent the rebel division of Armstrong from re-enforcing by any of the by-roads leading in the direction of Fair Garden. The enemy, commanded by Generals Martin and Morgan, were now pushed back to the intersection of the by-road taken by Colonel La Grange on our left flank and the main Newport road.

At 4 p. m. Colonel Campbell's brigade charged dismounted, while Colonel La Grange advanced his line to within pistol-shot of the enemy, the enemy using canister at this time, but soon ceased firing and prepared to move his pieces from the field, when Colonel La Grange, with the Fourth Indiana Cavalry, charged him with the saber at a gallop, capturing about 150 prisoners (including the commanding officers of three regiments), 2 rifled 10-pounder guns, 1 caisson, 1 ambulance, 4 flags, arms and horses, besides many of his wounded, the pursuit being kept up until after dark.

The enemy was on this occasion entirely routed, his men hiding and escaping in every direction. Throwing away their arms and equipments they presented the appearance of a panic-stricken mob as they were running through the mountains, according to the statement of citizens, who reported their passing until late after midnight. In the pursuit Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow encountered the advance of the other rebel division. Firing a volley into it, the direction of the column was changed toward the French Broad River. Colonels Wolford and Garrard arrived at Fair Garden too late to take part in the pursuit, their commands being completely exhausted from excessive fatigue and want of forage and supplies.

On the morning of the 28th I moved my whole command toward the French Broad River, on the direct road from Fair Garden to Dandridge, with the view of engaging the enemy's cavalry wherever it might be found. Colonel Palmer, commanding the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, was ordered to take a plantation road (5 miles from Dandridge) leading to Indian Creek and entering the river road 5 miles above Dandridge. The advance soon discovered the enemy's pickets about 3½ miles from Fain's Island Ford, who were driven to their main line near the creek. Finding that the rebel division of Armstrong and the fragment of the division scattered the previous

day had remained on the south side of the river, I immediately ordered Colonel Wolford's division and Colonel La Grange's brigade, of Colonel McCook's division, to the attack. At this moment (4 p. m.) I received information from Colonel Garrard, who was protecting the road in Wolford's and La Grange's rear in connection with Campbell's brigade of McCook's division, that the enemy was crossing infantry at Fain's Island Ford, and that an officer of his command had watched them wading the stream for more than an hour, estimating the force at three brigades.

The enemy being thus re-enforced and threatening to cut us off by the only road to Fair Garden (he having already advanced in that direction), I moved Colonel Wolford's division forward rapidly on both sides of the river road, supported by Colonel La Grange's brigade. The enemy was here driven from a strong position on a ridge, running at right angles with the river near Indian Creek, and compelling him to fall back behind breast-works and rifle-pits he had constructed. Colonel Wolford succeeded in forcing him from there on our extreme left. The enemy having now re-enforcements to the extent of three regiments of infantry already engaged, so that he was superior in numbers, besides holding a strong position, and receiving reports that he was also crossing troops at Evans' Ford, 6 miles below Dandridge, and advancing on Cannon's, 3 miles from Sevierville on the Knoxville road, where I had a small force of dismounted men commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Butler, and having already pushed forward another force to within 1 mile of the cross-roads by which my command had to pass, I ordered Colonel Wolford to withdraw his division at dark, to be followed by Colonel La Grange's brigade, Colonel McCook bringing up the rear with Garrard and Campbell, he having opposed the enemy's infantry advance from Fain's Island to the last moment. I then moved my command by the way of Fair Garden, Trotter's Bridge, and Wear's Cove to Maryville, camping one division in Miller's Cove to picket the country 20 miles east of Maryville, there not being sufficient forage for the whole command, which it now became necessary to haul from the bottoms of the Little Tennessee River.

I cannot give our exact loss in these engagements, but do not think it will exceed 100. Among the number killed were many valuable officers, such as Colonel [Major] Lesslie, of the Fourth Indiana Cavalry, who fell pierced by a bullet while gallantly leading the charge of a battalion of his regiment. The enemy's loss was very severe, and I do not think will fall short of 400. As soon as the reports of division commanders are received a correct list will be forwarded.

While in Tuckaleechee Cove I received information that the force of Indians and whites commanded by the rebel Thomas (formerly U. S. Indian agent for the Cherokee Nation) was near the forks of Little Tennessee and Tuckaseegee Rivers in North Carolina, who had become a terror to the Union people of East Tennessee and the borders of North Carolina from the atrocities they were daily perpetrating. I ordered Major Davidson with his regiment (the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry) to pursue this force and to destroy it.

I am just in receipt of dispatches announcing the surprise of the Indians on the 2d instant near Quallatown. The enemy were 250 strong. Of these, 22 Indians and 32 whites were captured, including some officers. It is reported that less than 50 made their escape, the remainder being either killed or wounded, so that this nest of Indians may be considered as entirely destroyed, nearly 200 of them

having been killed. In this affair Lieutenant Capron, a gallant young officer of the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, was severely and perhaps mortally wounded while charging the enemy. This was an enterprise of great difficulty, through a rugged, mountainous country destitute of supplies of any kind, and Major Davidson is deserving of great credit for the manner in which he executed his instructions.

I will avail myself of this occasion to call the attention of the commanding general to the fact that for nearly two months my command has been almost daily engaged with the enemy and compelled to live mainly on parched corn, most of which has been gathered at a distance of from 6 to 15 miles. The weather at times has been intensely cold and the suffering very great, most of them being without shelter of any kind; yet they have fought well and been successful in almost every instance, and have borne their hardships with the fortitude of true soldiers, sustained by a sense of the justice of their cause.

Colonel McCook, Colonel La Grange, Colonel Campbell, Colonel Garrard, Colonel Wolford, Lieutenant-Colonel Miner, Lieutenant-Colonel Bond, and Lieutenant-Colonel Adams, commanders of divisions and brigades, and Colonel Palmer, commanding Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, are deserving of great credit for the handsome manner in which they handled their commands, in this last, as well as the many previous actions since I assumed command. There are many officers of less rank whose names should be recorded here for their gallantry, but it would render this report too long and I will have to refer you to the sub-reports, where justice I hope may be rendered them. I take great pleasure in calling attention of the general commanding to the intelligence, courage, and energy displayed by Capt. William C. Rawolle, my aide-de-camp, on this last as well as all previous occasions.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Comdg. Cav. Corps, Dept. Ohio.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

*ADDENDA.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
*Knoxville, January* 28, 1864—10 a. m.

Brig. Gen. S. D. STURGIS,
*Commanding Cavalry Corps.*

GENERAL: Your dispatch of 6 p. m. 27th is received.* The commanding general congratulates you upon your handsome success, and desires you to thank, in his name, Colonels McCook, La Grange, and Campbell for their gallantry in the affair. The report of Longstreet moving toward Kentucky has proved to be unfounded. General Garrard sends word that the enemy attacked Tazewell on the morning of the 24th instant with a force of about 600, but were repulsed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

*See p. 134.

No. 3.

*Reports of Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Maryville, Tenn., February* 2, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to present the following report of the operations of my division in its engagement with the enemy near Fair Garden, Tenn., on the 27th ultimo:

The enemy's cavalry, commanded by General Martin, and consisting of two divisions, under Generals John T. Morgan and Armstrong, had on the afternoon of the 26th advanced to a position on the Fair Garden road, between Little East and Middle Forks of Pigeon River and west of McNutt's house.

Colonel Campbell's (First) brigade was advanced to near Dickey's house late in the afternoon, the enemy opening upon his line with artillery. The Second Brigade and battery were in position about dark, but this brigade, with three pieces of artillery, was subsequently retired to a point near Sevierville, where it was in communication with Colonel Wolford, whose division had been engaged on the Flat Creek road.

At daylight of the 27th, Colonel Campbell's brigade, with two pieces of artillery, advanced from their position across Middle Fork of Pigeon, and charging the enemy's position, which was a strong one, took it without difficulty. The enemy were now discovered in a strong position east of McNutt's house, occupying a commanding wooded eminence. Colonel Campbell's line, from the paucity of numbers in his brigade, was exceedingly weak, and from the extent of the enemy's line and the nature of his position was necessarily thin and extended. Upon advancing the First Brigade across the Little East Fork of Pigeon the enemy's first line was broken, but they were massed in heavy numbers behind barricades, and the Second Michigan Cavalry were obliged to fall back across the fork to the timber west of McNutt's. The retiring of the Second Michigan Cavalry necessitated the withdrawal of the entire brigade from the east side of the fork.

Colonel La Grange's (Second) brigade had been sent on the Stafford road to the left of the Fair Garden road and intersecting the latter, about 2 miles from Fair Garden. His advance encountered the enemy's pickets about three-quarters of a mile from the rear of the left flank of Colonel Campbell's line and drove them in upon the main body, three regiments of which he discovered in position upon arriving at a point on the Stafford road opposite to and about a mile from the left flank of Colonel Campbell's skirmishers. I now ordered an advance of my entire line, Colonel Campbell's brigade again advancing on the right across the bridge and stream at McNutt's, meeting the enemy in a new position in the timber, about three-quarters of a mile from the stream, where they made a stubborn resistance, opening with artillery. They were steadily driven, however, from the several positions that they attempted to hold, and near Fair Garden became involved in the confusion that had overtaken their right under the dashing advance of Colonel La Grange upon our left.

Colonel La Grange, advancing upon the Stafford road, encountered the enemy in very heavy force, far exceeding his own, but the persistent courage and determination of his officers and men enabled him to force them steadily back till an open field was reached on the right of the Stafford road, near its intersection with the Fair Garden road, which was enfiladed by the enemy's battery. The dismounted men, however, advanced across the field, pressing the enemy's right and obtaining a flank fire upon the heavy force which was engaging Colonel Campbell upon our right. The enemy was thrown into confusion and rout, and Colonel La Grange, with detachments of Second and Fourth Indiana Cavalry, by a magnificent and gallant saber charge upon the Fair Garden road, captured two pieces of artillery, sabered the cannoneers and supports, and captured a large number of prisoners. At the same time Lieutenant-Colonel [Major] Lesslie, Fourth Indiana Cavalry, with a part of his regiment, charged with sabers the enemy's line upon the left of the road, driving them after a desperate hand-to-hand fight, and capturing about 50 of them together with General Morgan's battle-flag and part of his escort.

In this charge Lieutenant-Colonel [Major] Lesslie, Fourth Indiana Cavalry, fell mortally wounded while gallantly leading his men. He was an able, brave, and dashing officer, and his regiment, the cause, and the country can illy afford his loss.

The number of our forces that had reached the battery from the rapid gallop that had been made was necessarily small, and some of the enemy, emboldened by this fact, attempted to form and retake their guns; but four companies of the Fourth Indiana Cavalry arriving upon the spot, charging this line of the enemy, gave them barely time to remove some of their wounded, and the last attempt of any part of Morgan's division to preserve their organization upon the field was abandoned.

It was now nearly dark, Morgan's division was thoroughly and disgracefully routed and broken, our men were worn out by an advance over a hotly contested and difficult ground, our supply of ammunition was in a great measure exhausted, and I therefore, after occupying the position taken, sent out detachments of the First East Tennessee and First Wisconsin Cavalry—these detachments comprising the only men that had not been actively engaged in pursuit. They overtook the enemy at Flat Creek and captured quite a number of prisoners. They attacked the rear and flanks of Armstrong's division, and soon forced them into nearly the same rapid and confused retreat that had before overtaken Morgan's division.

We captured 2 3-inch rifled guns, with their horses; about 800 small-arms, which we destroyed; 112 prisoners (9 of them commissioned officers, 2 of the latter being regimental commanders), General Morgan's battle-flag and his body servant, General Morgan himself narrowly escaping, being in the immediate vicinity of the battery when it was taken. We also recaptured the regimental colors of the Thirty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and one other regimental color (a silk American flag), which was in the possession of the rebels, and a battery guidon. Many of their killed and wounded fell into our hands, and I estimate their loss in killed and wounded, exclusive of the prisoners taken, at upwards of 200.

Our causalties (detailed lists* of which are herewith inclosed) were 4 killed, 24 wounded, and 3 missing. I can only account for

* Omitted.

our small loss by the rapidity of our movements and the consternation produced by the saber charges.

I do not deem it improper to say that no other forces were engaged in this affair except my division.

I have not mentioned in the body of this report the operations of the artillery, which were important. The Eighteenth Indiana Battery was, by sections, assigned to various positions in the several movements made, and in each the admirable practice of Captain Lilly and his subordinates materially aided in dislodging the enemy from his positions and covering our advances. The several regiments and battery did their whole duty, and in a manner worthy of all commendation. The opportunity of the day, however, was presented to the Second and Fourth Indiana Cavalry, and led by Colonel La Grange, their brigade commander, they gladly availed themselves of it.

To Colonel Campbell, Second Michigan Cavalry, commanding the First Brigade, I have to tender my thanks for the able manner in which he managed his brigade, weak in numbers, with an enemy in his front strongly posted and far exceeding his own. Col. O. H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding the Second Brigade, disposed and maneuvered his command in a masterly manner, and by the effect of his personal example in leading the magnificent charge by which the enemy were finally routed and dispersed, in a great measure accomplished the crowning success of the day.

The several regimental commanders executed all orders and made the several advances with promptitude and precision, and by them and to the discipline, bravery, and determination of their officers and men a signal success over the enemy was obtained.

The various members of the division staff, Captains Pratt, assistant adjutant-general; Porter, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, acting assistant inspector-general; Mitchell, Second Indiana Cavalry, acting aide-de-camp; and Lieutenants Gannett, Seventh Kansas Cavalry, ordnance officer, and Cunningham, Fourth Indiana Cavalry, commanding escort, were, as usual, prompt and efficient in the discharge of their duties, and I have to thank them for the assistance rendered me. I inclose herewith copies of reports of brigade and battery commanders.

I have the honor to be, captain, your very obedient servant,

EDWARD M. McCOOK,

*Colonel Second Indiana Cavalry, Commanding Division.*

Capt. WILLIAM C. RAWOLLE,

*Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., Cavalry Corps.*

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HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Maryville, E. Tenn., February 7*, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor herewith to transmit copy of report of Col. O. H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding the Second Brigade, of engagement near Swann's Island, Tenn., on the 28th ultimo.

With the exception of two companies of the Second Michigan Cavalry, who were skirmishing with the enemy's infantry, who crossed the French Broad River below Swann's Island, no part of the division but the Second Brigade was engaged.

I should state that "our men," of which Colonel La Grange speaks in connection with the killing of Lieutenant Stover, were not troops of this division.

I am, captain, your very obedient servant,

E. M. McCOOK,
*Colonel, Commanding Division.*

Capt. J. E. JACOBS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Cavalry Command, D. C.*

*ADDENDA.*

HDQRS. CAVALRY CORPS, DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Maryville, Tenn., February 2,* 1864.

E. M. McCOOK,
*Comdg. First Cav. Div., Dept. of the Cumberland:*

COLONEL: Brigadier-General Sturgis, commanding cavalry, directs me to inform you that it gives him great pleasure to thank you in the name of Maj. Gen. J. G. Foster, commanding the department, for your gallantry in the engagement of the 27th instant, when your division scattered and dispersed the rebel cavalry commanded by Major-Generals Martin and Morgan.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. C. RAWOLLE,
*Capt., A. A. D. C., U. S. Army, and A. A. A. Gen.*

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No. 4.

*Report of Col. Archibald P. Campbell, Second Michigan Cavalry, commanding First Brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Wear's Cove, Tenn., January 30,* 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report the following as the operations of this brigade in the action of January 27, 1864:

In accordance with orders from the colonel commanding, I took position on the hills near Dickey's house at daylight [with] the Second Michigan and Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, dismounted, and First Tennessee Cavalry, mounted, the Second Michigan took the center on the Fair Garden road, the Ninth Pennsylvania on the left and First Tennessee Cavalry on the right of the line, with one company mounted on the left of Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry as flankers. The enemy were in very strong position on the hills beyond, and their lines extended along my whole front. I ordered the Second Michigan to advance to Pigeon River and the Ninth Pennsylvania to advance skirmishers on the left of my line.

The enemy's skirmishers opened fire on the line with small-arms. I ordered the Second Michigan to cross the river and advance, which they did through the valley, and charging the enemy's position on the hills with a yell, supported by a section of Lilly's Eighteenth Indiana Battery, firing over their heads into the enemy's lines. The Ninth Pennsylvania advanced and gained the hills to the left. A section of Captain Lilly's Eighteenth Indiana Battery was then brought forward, and my command lay under cover while he shelled the enemy in position across the East Fork, Pigeon River. I was ordered to advance my brigade at 11 a. m., with instructions that

the Seventh Kentucky Cavalry would move forward on my right flank and protect it. I ordered the Second Michigan Cavalry forward and across the river at McNutt's Mill in the face of the enemy's fire; also the Ninth Pennsylvania crossed on the left, and First Tennessee advanced to the river on the right. The Second Michigan Cavalry rushed forward rapidly, charged the enemy with a yell, driving him with a very inferior force, when the enemy charged both in line and column, repulsing the Second Michigan and driving them back across the river. They charged to the river and through the bridge, and drove the First Tennessee back from the river, but were repulsed by the Second Michigan near the bridge and driven. The Ninth Pennsylvania advanced on the left, but as the center and right had fallen back, and the enemy formed to charge them with superior force, they retired to the cover of the woods a short distance.

Soon after I advanced my lines and moved forward rapidly, dismounted, 2 miles without resistance, when I met the enemy's skirmishers and drove them 1 mile, when I was joined by the right flank of the Second Brigade, which was fighting on my left.

I advanced by the right flank under cover of the woods to within easy musket-range of the enemy's artillery, which was strongly supported. I asked Lieutenant Miller, Eighteenth Indiana Battery, if he could get his gun in position there. He answered, "Yes, before the enemy can load." I then ordered my line to charge the enemy and dislodge him from his position, and, with the assistance of one piece of artillery, compelled him to abandon his position, and he fled in utter confusion, when the Fourth Indiana Cavalry charged and captured the enemy's artillery. Lieutenant Miller did the best of execution with his gun. I then advanced at a double-quick with my whole command. The enemy were utterly routed; many prisoners captured. Colonel Brownlow was ordered forward with his regiment (the First Tennessee Cavalry), and charged down the road, taking several prisoners, and, returning, routed and scattered the advance guard of General Armstrong's division.

My thanks are given to officers and men of my command for their gallantry and endurance during the day.

My loss is 20 killed, wounded, and missing;* 7 prisoners captured.

Very respectfully submitted.

Your most obedient servant,

A. P. CAMPBELL,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 5.

*Reports of Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Sevierville, Tenn., January* 28, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that at 11 a. m. on the 27th the Second Brigade moved by order on the left-hand road from

* Nominal list of casualties (omitted) shows 1 man killed, 17 men wounded, and 3 men missing.

Dickey's to Fair Garden. The enemy's picket was met within three-fourths of a mile, and fell back half a mile when a force of three regiments was displayed, which was driven by our skirmishers to the cross-road leading to McNutt's Bridge, where a determined stand was made. A battalion of the Second Indiana and one of the First Wisconsin were now sent to make a demonstration on the right of the force opposed to the First Brigade, and attack, if their assistance should be needed or any advantage offer. At this point our artillery was put into position and the enemy crowded back within half a mile of the point where the right and left hand roads to Fair Garden unite. The enemy now having the advantage in position, and the two battalions sent to the right having returned without engaging, our dismounted men were relieved by a fresh detail. The Second Indiana, two companies of the Fourth, and one of the First Wisconsin advanced cautiously through the woods, and were enabled to deliver a telling fire at short range upon the enemy, whose shots flew high above them.

Our mounted column was discovered by the enemy, who opened upon it with two pieces. Fortunately but one shell of the first discharge exploded, killing 2 horses and wounding 2 men of the Fourth Indiana. Before the discharge could be repeated the column was sheltered in a hollow to the left of the road. The First Brigade was driving a superior force on our right, and as our dismounted men had broken the enemy's right and advanced beyond his center they were in danger from the fire of the First Brigade. A request was sent them to reserve their fire. The First Wisconsin was sent rapidly to the enemy's extreme right; two companies on our right halted and poured a steady flank fire at half range upon the force opposed to the First Brigade, and the remainder of our dismounted men advanced to within 150 yards of the enemy's battery, which opened a rapid but ineffective fire of canister upon their shelter in the woods. Six companies of the Fourth Indiana were now ordered up at a gallop, and charged in column of fours. Just as the battery was moving to the rear the supports parted right and left, and our dismounted men rushed forward with wild cheers.

Finding that the enemy's mounted supports more than doubled our column, and fearing they would close in behind it, the two first companies were sent forward after the battery, and the other four wheeled into line and charged to the left, where the enemy had planted his battle-flag and was seeking to rally his broken lines. In this charge Lieutenant-Colonel [Major] Lesslie lost his life. No nobler soldier or truer patriot has fallen in this war. The battery was overtaken, the drivers sabered, and the teams stopped in a deep cut within a quarter of a mile.

Seeing our force so small, a battalion of the enemy formed and advanced to retake the guns. A horse in each wheel team was shot to hinder his moving them, and he had barely time to carry off his wounded when the remaining four companies of the Fourth Indiana arrived and drove him precipitately across the field.

The First Wisconsin now reported a brigade of the enemy advancing on the Dandridge road, and while our lines were reforming that regiment was sent to relieve a battalion of the First Tennessee, which had been cut off by the enemy's column. They charged the enemy in rear, opened the road, and the battalion returned in safety.

Our loss was 1 killed, Colonel [Major] Lesslie, and 7 wounded.* Twelve of the enemy's dead, and 10 severely wounded, were left on the field where our brigade fought.

We captured 105 prisoners, including 7 taken by the Seventh Kentucky in the morning, of whom 9 were commissioned officers, besides 2 pieces of artillery (3-inch Rodman's), 1 caisson, an ambulance, and a division battle-flag.

Lieutenants Jackson, of the Fourth, and Hill, of the Second, also Sergeant Winkler, of the Fourth, distinguished themselves in the charge. Major Presdee, of the Second, Major Purdy, of the Fourth, and Adjutant Anderson of the Fourth, behaved in a most gallant manner.

The command shares with myself renewed obligations to Lieut. D. S. Moulton, acting adjutant, for his gallantry and efficiency.

Very respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel First Wisconsin, Commanding Second Brigade.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Sevierville, Tenn., January 29, 1864.*

I have the honor to report that at 4 p. m. on the 28th the Second Brigade was ordered to support Colonel Wolford's command, then engaged with the enemy near Rainwater's house, 2 miles from Fain's Ford.

Finding the enemy had checked his advance, the Fourth Indiana and one company of the Second were dismounted and moved up on our left past Colonel Wolford's lines, while the Seventh Kentucky was sent in column to our right to flank and if possible to drive the enemy from the strong position he held immediately in Colonel Wolford's front. This regiment advanced in fine order to within 200 yards of the enemy, and was the first to discover the breast-works of logs and rails which were masked by the dense woods, and from which the enemy poured a destructive fire, remaining himself in comparative security. As soon as the discovery was made our line was halted and a reconnaissance made on the enemy's right flank, where a similar breast-work was found.

At this time an order was received to fall back, and the First Wisconsin and Seventh Kentucky covered the retrogade movement. Our loss was 1 killed and 4 wounded.

Lieutenant Stover, of the Second Indiana, was killed within 60 yards of the enemy's breastworks, where he had led his company, and it is believed was shot accidentally by some of our own men in his rear. Thousands of rounds were fired in this skirmish by men who did not see the enemy. The habit of allowing cowards to fire over the heads of their own party from a safe distance in the rear is one of the most reprehensible, and officers who cannot prevent it ought to be shot themselves.

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 1 officer and 1 man killed and 7 men wounded.

Lieutenant Stover had taken part in every engagement of his regiment, and had been twice wounded. The entire command lament his loss.*

Very respectfully,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel First Wisconsin, Comdg. Second Brigade.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 6.

*Report of Capt. Eli Lilly, Eighteenth Indiana Battery.*

HDQRS. 18TH INDIANA BATTERY, 1ST DIVISION CAVALRY,
*Maryville, Tenn., January* 31, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my command in the action of January 27, 1864, near Fair Garden, Tenn.:

At daylight of the above day, I took position in the lines of the First Brigade of this division to the right of the Sevierville and Newport road, and immediately west of the Middle Fork of Pigeon River, with three guns, the opposite bank being occupied by the enemy.

About 8 a. m. the First Brigade advanced, driving the enemy from the stream. In the endeavor to gain the first range of hills east we met with sharp resistance, when I opened with shell, and our troops moving under cover of my fire took the ridge, the enemy retreating across the East Fork of Pigeon to the dense timber lying on either side of the Newport road. I now advanced my guns, placing a section under Lieutenant Rippetoe, on the ridge just taken, at a point half a mile east of Hodsden's house, which commanded the open ground, to the timber across East Fork; the other piece, under Lieutenant Miller, quarter of a mile to the right and front of this, covering the bridge at McNutt's Mill, which point had been taken by the Second Michigan Cavalry. I directed the woods to be shelled while the troops crossed the stream to occupy them, which was accomplished; but the enemy having massed a heavy force on this road, drove our lines back to the creek, when I gave him canister from the piece at the bridge and shell from the other pieces to the edge of the woods, preventing his farther progress.

Two guns under Lieutenant Beck, which early in the morning had been sent with the Second Brigade, now reached a position with that command to the right-rear of the rebels at McNutt's Mill, and opened a brisk and very accurate fire on their mounted lines, dispersing them in great disorder. Here we received a reply from two rifled guns, which were soon silenced and driven from the ground. During this fire the Second Brigade advanced and took the rebel position, which was near the intersection of the roads, and the enemy at McNutt's Mill, finding their line of retreat threatened, beat a hasty march to keep communication with their right, followed closely by the First Brigade, with which I also advanced my three pieces, to the open ground within 600 yards of the junction of the roads, near which the

* Nominal list of casualties (omitted) shows 1 officer killed and 4 men wounded.

enemy had posted his artillery. Seeing the Fourth Indiana Cavalry in column of fours in the road to the left, ready to charge with the saber, I brought my guns into position at the gallop to within 500 yards of the rebel battery and opened furiously. They fired a few shots and left the field, when I paid attention to their dismounted lines, which were soon in disorder. The Fourth Indiana now charged, I maintaining a rapid fire across their front until they reached the main road, when I ceased in this direction and worked with two guns to the right over the First Brigade, now going forward at the double-quick. One gun (supported by the First East Tennessee) was moved at the gallop to support the charging party, which had captured two rifled guns. Arriving on the ground, I found our men in undisputed possession and the enemy flying in all directions. The main column on the road presenting a good target, we practiced on it with lively effect till out of range. One shot from my left section killed 1 man, a mule, and 3 horses; a second took off a gun-wheel, and cut in two a sponge-staff in the cannoneer's hands; a third went through a caisson. From my guns on the right one shot killed 1 and wounded 3 at the rebel guns.

My loss is as follows: Private Samuel Mills, detailed from Fourth Indiana Cavalry, killed by a gunshot wound in the head.

Ammunition expended, 150 rounds.

I have the honor to be, captain, your most obedient servant,

ELI LILLY,
*Captain, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN PRATT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 7.

*Report of Col. Israel Garrard, Seventh Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Cavalry Division, Army of the Ohio.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION, CAVALRY CORPS,
*Ellejoy Creek, E. Tenn., February* 4, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that, on the morning of the 27th, I was in position near Nichols' house on the road from Cannon's, on Little Pigeon, to Tom Evans' Ford and other points on the river above, when I received orders to move by way of Cannon's and Sevierville to Dr. Hodsden's, on the East Fork of Pigeon. Having reached that point, I halted to feed and await orders.

About 9 p. m., in obedience to orders to move to the front and attack the enemy at daylight in concert with Colonel Wolford, I moved to the vicinity of Fair Garden, and went into camp with Colonel Wolford's command.

During the night I was ordered to delay my movements until the command of Colonel McCook came up within supporting distance. This occurred about 8 a. m., and, in obedience to orders, and under the immediate personal direction of yourself, I moved rapidly to the vicinity of the fords at Fain's and Swann's Islands, just above and below Dandridge. The picket (rebel) at the intersection of the main road near Rainwater's house was driven in, and 1 of them captured by the advance under command of Lieutenant Capron, Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry.

No rebel force was found on this side of the river, but both fords were found to be picketed by the enemy. A short time after we

reached the fords a movement of rebel infantry was made to both of them at Swann's Island, evidently with the intention of resisting our attempt to cross. At Fain's Island the character of the movement was entirely different; the force was a large one. It was moved rapidly, and on reaching the river dashed in without hesitation and crossed on to the island and moved toward the other crossing to our side of the river. This was done so quickly that they gained a position on this side before the picket, sent to that ford under Lieutenant Capron, Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, could be sufficiently strengthened to prevent it. These facts were reported by me to the general in person. I did not consider that his orders required me to move my command to Fain's Island and enter on the heavy engagement, which the reported strength of the enemy would have caused. A scout sent out ascertained that they had advanced their pickets on this side about 1 mile from the ford. I therefore made use of the discretion left with me by the general, and withdrew my command from the vicinity of the river. I sent one regiment down toward Fain's Ford to check their advance while moving my two guns back to the main road, and, in obedience to my orders, I returned to camp near Fair Garden. I moved 2 miles toward Sevierville, owing to the report sent to the general by Lieutenant-Colonel Butler, commanding at Cannon's, which had come into my hands on its way to him, that the enemy were crossing at the lower fords and threatening Cannon's and Sevierville.

About 11 p. m. I received orders that my command would remain in camp until morning and would form the rear guard. I remained in camp until 9 a. m., when I moved to Trotter's Bridge, on the West Fork of Pigeon. I reached that point just after the column, moving by the other road, had passed. I went into camp in Little Cove.

The next morning I moved out at a late hour and marched about 8 miles through Wear's Cove, into Tuckaleechee Cove, and camped until next day. At this point, in obedience to the general's order, I detached the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, under Major Davidson, on an expedition over the mountains into North Carolina, against the Indians and rebels in camp near the Forks of the Tuckaseegee and Little Tennessee Rivers. From there I moved into Miller's Cove, and finally to this point, just outside of the Chilhowee range of mountains.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISRAEL GARRARD,
*Colonel, Commanding Second Division.*

Captain RAWOLLE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 8.

*Report of Maj. Edward G. Savage, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS NINTH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY,
*January* 29, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, on the morning of the 27th instant, at 5.30, the regiment formed line in front of camp at daylight, ordered to form a line of battle on the ground occupied the previous afternoon. The regiment marched out of camp to the ground, and dismounted the men; horses were sent back to the camp. The line

of skirmish being formed, with Second Michigan on the right, advanced to a corn-field, and, passing through, took a position near the east branch of Pigeon Creek, when we met the enemy's pickets and skirmished a short time with them, charging the hill they occupied and drove them from their position; here the line halted until re-enforcements arrived. Colonel La Grange taking position on the left of the regiment at 12 m., the line of skirmishers was ordered to move forward. Second Michigan and a portion of this regiment, under command of Major Kimmel, advanced, charging across an open field to a wood. Here that portion of the command halted (the enemy being in strong force in the woods) and received a cross-fire from the Second Michigan Cavalry, the charge being made before I could form a junction with Major Kimmel. As soon as I moved with the Third Battalion a new line was formed, when we advanced to and through the woods, driving the enemy across a branch of Pigeon Creek to Fair Garden. Here the skirmishers withdrew from the woods to the road, marching in column a distance of nearly 2 miles, and coming up with the enemy I deployed to the left, passing through the woods to an open field, where the enemy opened with artillery, shelling the open ground and woods occupied by our skirmishers. The line now advanced, driving the enemy and capturing their artillery. The regiment, during the engagement, was dismounted from daylight until dark.

The casualties during the engagment were 3 wounded, viz: Private Michael Smith, Company A, wounded in the hip; Private Sam. Low, Company M, wounded in wrist; Private Oliver B. Ball, Company M, slightly wounded in the face, caused by fragment of a shell.

The line of skirmishers of the Second Michigan had been moved by the right flank across the Fair Garden [road] before I received orders to move. The horses coming up at dark, the regiment was mounted and marched back to the woods near McNutt's house and encamped.

At 7 a. m., January 28, regiment marched out on road running to Newport, a distance of about 5 miles, turning to the left, taking the road leading to Evans' Ford. When about 2 miles from the ford the regiment formed line of battle across the road, remaining in line a short time. Company C sent out as picket on road to Wilson's Ford. Companies A, E, and K sent out to re-enforce Company C. At dusk regiment ordered back to guard roads until pack-mules, &c., had passed out. Called in two companies Second Michigan Cavalry and battalion of the regiment. Marched back to camp near McNutt's house, arriving there about 3 a. m. January 29.

Respectfully reported.

E. G. SAVAGE,
*Major, Commanding Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

Lieut. EDWIN HOYT, Jr.,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 9.

*Reports of Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet, C. S. Army.*

MORRISTOWN,
*January* 29, 1864.

General Martin had a severe cavalry fight on the 27th. He was driven back 4 miles, with a loss of 200 killed, wounded, and miss-

ing, and 2 pieces of artillery. The enemy's cavalry has been greatly increased by the cavalry from Chattanooga. Most of the cavalry force from that place is now here. The men, about half that should be in our regiments here, are, I understand, in the camps about Dalton. I hope they may be sent here, or these sent there. We can do but little while this superior cavalry force is here to operate on our flank and rear. Do send me a chief of cavalry.

J. LONGSTREET,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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MORRISTOWN,
*February* 1, 1864.

GENERAL: Brigadier-General Armstrong's cavalry had a successful fight with the enemy's cavalry on the south side of the French Broad on the 28th. The enemy retreated during the night and the following day and is now at Maryville. Our forces occupy Sevierville. The enemy abandoned Tazewell on the 26th ultimo. Major Day took possession on the next day, and got 8 good wagons without teams and some artillery ammunition.

J. LONGSTREET,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER.

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## JANUARY 27, 1864.—Skirmish near Knoxville, Tenn.

### REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Marshal W. Chapin, Twenty-third Michigan Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, Second Division, Twenty-third Army Corps.
No. 2.—Lieut. Col. Benjamin P. Estes, Thirteenth Kentucky Infantry.
No. 3.—Maj. William W. Wheeler, Twenty-third Michigan Infantry.

### No. 1.

*Report of Col. Marshal W. Chapin, Twenty-third Michigan Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, Second Division, Twenty-third Army Corps.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SECOND DIV., TWENTY-THIRD A. C.,
*Knoxville, Tenn., January* 28, 1864.

SIR: Inclosed I forward you the reports of Lieutenant-Colonel Estes, Thirteenth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, and Major Wheeler, of the Twenty-third Michigan Volunteer Infantry, of an attack made on our picket-line between the hours of 2 and 3 p. m. yesterday. I have the honor also to report that I received information of the attack at 3.10 p. m. yesterday. I immediately ordered the two regiments of my brigade at this point (One hundred and eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry and One hundred and seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry) to hold themselves in readiness to move at a moment's

warning, and reported in person to Brigadier-General Judah's headquarters. Ascertaining that he was absent on some portion of the division line, I reported to Brigadier-General Cox for permission to move out the two regiments in reserve to the assistance of those in advance, which permission I obtained. Without waiting for the execution of this order I moved to the front myself, when I found that the enemy had been repulsed with a loss of about 15 killed and wounded. This latter information I obtained from a private soldier of the Twenty-third Michigan, who was at a house in advance of the line and who secreted himself from the enemy during the engagement, but saw the killed and wounded as they were brought back by the rebels.

Our losses are as follows: Thirteenth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, 5 enlisted men captured; Twenty-third Michigan, 6 enlisted men captured and 1 mortally wounded.

I would very respectfully draw your attention to the necessity of having mounted vedettes stationed in advance of our line to prevent a recurrence of similar attacks, or at least give warning, that we may be prepared to receive them. With the force under my command it is utterly impossible to keep my line sufficiently strong at all points to resist such attacks, and it is absolutely necessary that I should have some warning to re-enforce such portions of the line as may be attacked.

My line is about 2 miles long, and with only two regiments on picket duty, numbering 725 enlisted men for duty, you can at once see the impracticability of my forming a line at all points sufficiently strong to resist a cavalry charge.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, yours,

M. W. CHAPIN,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. R. C. KISE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWENTY-THIRD ARMY CORPS,
*Knoxville, Tenn., January* 28, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded.

The statements embodied in the within communication relative to liability of my picket-lines to incursions from the enemy's cavalry are concurred in.

H. M. JUDAH,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Benjamin P. Estes, Thirteenth Kentucky Infantry.*

HDQRS. THIRTEENTH KENTUCKY VOL. INFANTRY,
*Five Miles from Knoxville, Tenn., January* 28, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that, on yesterday, January 27, at 2.30 p. m., a body of cavalry, supposed to be a full battalion, made a charge on my right, driving in my outposts and capturing 1

corporal and 4 privates, who are still in the enemy's hands. My reserves on the right and center were compelled to fall back; that on the right, resting between the Strawberry Plains and Miller roads, was driven within 200 yards of my camp.

In consequence of my isolated position, the like circumstance will occur so often as the enemy see proper to make an attack, unless cavalry patrols are sent out in my front on these roads to detect the advances of the enemy and warn me of their approach.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. P. ESTES,
*Lieut. Col., Commanding 13th Kentucky Vol. Infantry.*

Lieut. C. MONTGOMERY,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Maj. William W. Wheeler, Twenty-third Michigan Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-THIRD MICHIGAN INFANTRY,
*Camp Pratt, January 28, 1864.*

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that the picket of my regiment, stationed on the Strawberry Plains road, was attacked yesterday p. m. (27th) at nearly 2 o'clock by a cavalry force of the enemy, numbering between 150 and 200 men, and driven in with a loss of 1 man mortally wounded and 1 corporal and 5 men prisoners. The enemy was enabled, through cover of woods, to form line of attack very near to our advance sentinels without observation.

Four of the 6 prisoners lost by us were on post as sentinels, and as often as the enemy attacks so often shall we lose the greater portion of our sentinels, unless mounted men may patrol the roads to points beyond the view of infantry sentinels and patrols. A large force of the enemy, probably 400 or 500 men, was held in his reserve. Many of the enemy were carried back on the saddles of their comrades.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. W. WHEELER,
*Major, Commanding.*

[Col. M. W. CHAPIN.]

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**JANUARY 27, 1864.—Affair on the Cumberland River, Ky.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Edward H. Hobson, U. S. Army.*

LEBANON, KY.,
*January 29, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: Scouts sent to Cumberland River attacked Guerrilla Richardson, killed 2 of his men, charged them 15 miles, and scattered them in every direction; compelled them to abandon their goods. The probability is that a number of Richardson's men will be captured.

E. H. HOBSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Capt. SEMPLE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

**JANUARY 28, 1864.—Affair at Lee's House, on Cornersville Pike, Tenn.**

*Report of Capt. George W. Overmyer, Eighty-first Ohio Infantry.*

HDQRS. DETACHMENT EIGHTY-FIRST OHIO VOL. INFANTRY,
*Sam. Mills', February 2*, 1864.

SIR: On the 28th January, 1864, I sent out a forage train for corn and pork, in charge of Corporal Casey, acting wagon-master, with instructions to keep the teams and men close together, permit no straggling, and go to Mr. Dabney's farm, about 4 miles from camp and on the left of the Cornersville pike.

About 2 miles from camp the train was fired upon and captured, with the following loss: James Mills, teamster, shot through the thigh and left on the field; 6 mules and harness taken away and wagon burnt; William Kimble, teamster, shot in left shoulder, taken prisoner; 6 mules and harness taken away, wagon filled with rails and fired, but was put out by citizens; Corporal Casey and 1 horse, saddle, and bridle captured; David Reece and William Reece, guards from Company K, Eighty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry; Nelson Shappell, James D. Smith, John Reichelderfer, and Jeremiah Parker, guards, Company G, Eighty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, captured and taken prisoners.

Recapitulation: Captured, 1 teamster (wounded), 6 guards, 1 wagon-master, 12 mules and harness, 1 horse, saddle, and bridle; 1 wagon destroyed; all chains for 2 wagons lost or destroyed; wounded and left, 1 teamster.

The attack was made at a bend in the pike about 200 yards from Mr. Lee's residence by 24 rebels (mounted), armed with 2 pistols and Colt revolving rifle each. They were lying behind a hill in waiting. The attack was made by throwing 6 men in the road in front of the teams and 18 men coming over ridge. All commenced firing about the same time at short pistol-range. They had our men surrounded and captured almost instantly. They took the men out east about 20 miles, and that evening gave them paroles, signed by Captain Harris, Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, by order of General Forrest.

Men got back to camp on the morning of the 29th, having had all their arms and accouterments taken from them (Corporal Casey was robbed of his watch), but say they were kindly treated.

The men have been assigned to duty, but an application for arms has been returned. None to furnish at present.

Respectfully submitted.

G. W. OVERMYER,
*Captain, Commanding at Sam. Mills'.*

Capt. H. L. EVERETT,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**JANUARY 28-29, 1864.—Skirmishes near Jonesville, Va.**

*Reports of Col. S. Palace Love, Eleventh Kentucky Infantry, commanding brigade.*

CLOUD'S HOUSE,
*January 28*, 1864—7 p. m.

GENERAL: I sent a scout to-day, about 10 o'clock, in the direction of Jonesville, consisting of about 50 men of the Eleventh Tennessee

Cavalry. They had not gone more than 5 miles from the camp when they encountered a body of rebels variously estimated from 300 to 1,000. A lively skirmish ensued. Our men were driven back, but in good order, to within about 3 miles of the camp, when the re-enforcements I sent forward reached them and checked the rebel advance and maintained their ground, fighting until dark set in.

The skirmish commenced about 10 a. m., but I did not hear of it until about 4, although Lieutenant Chapman, commanding scout, promptly dispatched me by two couriers, who from some cause or other failed to reach me.

Our loss is 2 killed and 5 or 6 wounded. Among the latter was Captain Newport, Company E, Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry, in the groin. I fear the wound will prove mortal.

From all the information I can gather to-day from scouts and citizens, there was a considerable force of the enemy hovering around me in the front and right last night. The roads indicate that they were traveled. The farm fencing was torn down, and corn taken from the fields, &c., which citizens say was done last night.

I consider my position up here rather hazardous unless the Iron-Works road to my right is well guarded and scouted. I respectfully ask you, if you have the mounted force, to guard me from that quarter.

Colonel Davis, Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry, reports the loss of the enemy heavier, if anything, than ours.

Write me by return courier and give me any instructions you may think necessary. I shall feel the enemy to-morrow and try and find out his number and intentions.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. P. LOVE,
*Colonel, Comdg. Third Brig., First Div., Cavalry Corps.*

[Brig. Gen. T. T. GARRARD.]

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE CLINCH,
*Cumberland Gap, Tenn., January* 29, 1864—9 a. m.

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER:

GENERAL: The above dispatch (this is a copy) I received last night at 12 m. I shall report on the subject hereafter.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
T. T. GARRARD,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding District of the Clinch.*

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CLOUD'S HOUSE,
*January* 29, 1864—10 a. m.

GENERAL: I am skirmishing with the enemy. They are in force in front advancing in two columns, one of infantry about 4,000 strong, and a force of 3,000 advancing on my right down the Iron-Works road.

I have started my trains back and will fall back slowly. I would like to have support of at least one regiment at the forks of the road. I expect to come there to-night.

S. P. LOVE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

[Brig. Gen. T. T. GARRARD.]

ROBERT ELY'S HOUSE,
*January* 29, 1864—1.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I have fallen back 5 miles from Ball's Bridge, skirmishing nearly all the way with the enemy. I am now in line of battle with the cavalry. The dismounted men are at McPherson's at the stone house. My train is all safe inside your picket-lines. The enemy is still advancing in force with artillery and wagon trains; it is so reported to me by the skirmishers in front. They advance in two columns, about two regiments of cavalry and three of infantry; infantry on the flank and cavalry in the center. Their line of skirmishers (infantry) number 2 to 1 of my cavalry.

This is no sensation dispatch, but true. Officers commanding the mounted force so report.

I shall remain where I am, unless driven from it, until night, and then fall back and camp at Weinman's Mill.

I fear a flank movement on the Iron-Works road, as they are reported moving by the flank in that direction. I would have made a stand at the bridge, but a citizen scout reported 1,200 cavalry on that road, and I thought it prudent to fall back this far to secure my train and rear.

I have had 1 man killed to-day, and Captain Newport, who was wounded yesterday, died about one hour ago.

S. P. LOVE,
*Colonel, Commanding Third Brigade, Cavalry Corps.*

[Brig. Gen. T. T. GARRARD.]

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**JANUARY 28–February 8, 1864.—Expedition from Gallatin to Cumberland Mountains, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Henry K. McConnell, Seventy-first Ohio Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Fort Thomas, Tenn., February* 10, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to respectfully submit the following report of the part taken by the troops under my command in the expedition from January 28 to February 7, 1864, to the Cumberland Mountains:

As the forces were under command of yourself in person until we passed Carthage, it is not necessary for me to say anything until from that point.

In obedience to your orders, I crossed the Cumberland River at the mouth of Caney Fork River, on the morning of the 30th January, with the detachment of the Seventy-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and the battalion of Tennessee troops, under command of Major Garrett, and pushed directly to Flynn's Lick, the Seventy-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry going directly up the Cumberland and the Tennessee troops by the way of Chestnut Mound, with orders to concentrate at Flynn's Lick at 10 a. m. of the 31st.

In our advance on this place we had numerous running skirmishes with detached squads of Hamilton's marauders, killing and capturing about 20. We found Flynn's Lick occupied by Hamilton with about 40 men, who ran upon sight of our advance. Learning from citizens that Hamilton had said he would fight us at that place, I selected 30 men, and leaving the balance of the command 2 miles

out, I went into Flynn's Lick in some hope that with this small force he might risk an engagement, but he dashed away as soon as we came in full view. At this point we awaited orders from you.

On the morning of the 2d instant, as per your orders, I started in pursuit of Hamilton and Hughs, who were in the direction of Livingston, Tenn. I followed until the 5th instant, which found us at Old Miner's. There I separated the detachments, and gave orders to sweep the country between the road on which we had come and the Cumberland River back to Flynn's Lick. While at Livingston I received a communication from Colonel Stokes, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, in which he informed me that he would move from Cookville up the Calfkiller River to Sparta, and cover that country. The net results, so far as I have received valid information, are 102 prisoners, 33 killed, 8 wounded, making a total loss of 143 to the horde of robbers that infest that country.

Finding Old Columbus, 3 miles above Gainesborough and between the Cumberland and Roaring Rivers, to be the veriest den of thieves and murderers, I removed the women and children and burned it. I have no means of knowing the number of mules and horses taken. It was considerable, but the quality and condition of the stock was so inferior that its only importance to us was to get them out of the hands of the enemy.

I have the honor to respectfully suggest that the country between Carthage and the Cumberland Mountains through which we passed is bordering upon famine. Families without regard to politics are eaten out and plundered by those common enemies of mankind (rangers) until even those formerly wealthy are utterly reduced, and many of the poorer are now actually starving. The people are sick of their folly and of the evil they have contracted and brought upon themselves. They are asking for counsel. They are anxious to have such gentlemen as Hon. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Stokes (I use these names because they used them), to whom they formerly listened, but whose counsels they learned to despise, to come and direct them, make speeches to them and form a nucleus around which they may gather. In Jackson, Fentress, and Overton Counties rebels go to Glasgow and other towns in Kentucky, where they purchase goods, contraband and otherwise, using but little restraint. We completely broke up for the time being the bands of Hughs, Hamilton, and Doherty.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

H. K. McCONNELL,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. E. A. PAINE,
*Commanding Post.*

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**JANUARY 29, 1864.—Firing on steamer Sir William Wallace, Mississippi River.**

*Report of Lieut. Col. Edwin Moore, Twenty-first Missouri Infantry.*

HDQRS. TWENTY-FIRST MISSOURI VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
*Vicksburg, Miss., February* 1, 1864.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report the arrival of my command at this place. During the passage and when abreast of

Islands Nos. 70 and 71 we were fired upon by guerrillas, who were concealed behind a breast-work constructed of logs. They fired probably 100 shots and fled. The fire was returned as promptly as possible. The forces seen were supposed to be from 50 to 75 men. I thought it policy not to leave the boat, the willows and brush being very thick.

Our loss was 1 man killed, 2 mortally wounded (who died the next morning), and 4 severely wounded.

Twenty-seven shots struck the boat.

EDWIN MOORE,
*Lieut. Col. Twenty-first Missouri Volunteer Infantry, Comdg.*

Lieut. JAMES B. COMSTOCK,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**JANUARY 29–FEBRUARY 23, 1864.—Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to Waterproof, La., and skirmishes.**

*Report of Capt. Joseph M. Anderson, Eightieth Ohio Infantry.*

VICKSBURG, MISS.,
*March* 4, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with the Special Orders, No. 27, dated Vicksburg, Miss., January 27, 1864, I herewith inclose a full report of the late expedition to Waterproof, parish of Tensas, La., under my command. A weekly report would have been made to you, as the above order states, had it not been reported to me that your office was removed to the field. Whereupon regular weekly reports have been sent to General McArthur, of which I now send you a consolidated report.

First. After arriving at Waterproof, La., on the afternoon of the 29th January, 1864, I sent a small scouting party out some 8 miles, capturing on the plantation of Mr. Tullis 2 mules and 1 double-barrel shotgun; also capturing at the residence of L. V. Reeves (rebel senator) on the same night 2 prisoners, 2 navy revolvers, and 2 horses belonging to same; same night captured Stephen Cuney (rebel spy) and horse.

Second. Captured on the 31st day of January, 1864, on the plantation and at the residence of Eli Bowman, 3 horses, 2 saddles, 2 cartridge-boxes, 50 pounds shot, 2 bowie knives, 2 small pistols. I recaptured Union mail, $296 in silver, $500 in gold, and 1 U. S. musket.

Third. Captured on the 1st day of February, 1864, on the plantation of William A. Beck, 1 horse; same date on Mr. Hay's plantation, 2 mules; same date on the plantation of Mr. Shields, 7 mules; same date on the plantation of F. Roys, 1 horse and 5 mules; same date from off the plantation of Mr. Leach, 3 mules; also the same date taken from refugee negro recruits, 14 mules, and recruited 40 recruits, besides 150 contrabands from off rebel plantations.

Fourth. Captured off the plantation of Mr. Belsinger, on the 4th of February, 1864, 6 mules and 1 horse.

Fifth. Captured on the 6th day of February, 1864, off P. H. Dieffenwierth's plantation, 4 mules.

Sixth. Captured on the 7th day of February, 1864, off J. A. Watson's plantation, 2 mules, 220 bales of cotton, 63 of which was claimed by negro servants.

Seventh. Captured on the 8th day of February, 1864, off William Watson's plantation, 6 mules.

Eighth. Captured on the 9th day of February, 1864, off the Gibson plantation, 4 mules; same date, off T. Holmes' plantation, 6 mules.

Ninth. Captured on the 11th day of February, 1864, off A. J. Gibson's plantation, 2 mules, 1 brown horse, and 2 double-barrel shotguns.

Tenth. Captured on the 12th day of February, 1864, off E. H. Cole's plantation, 1 horse and 1 small mule; also 1 small rifle.

Eleventh. Captured on the 13th day of February, 1864 (after skirmishing with 15 of the enemy), 1 prisoner, an acting assistant adjutant-general of Colonel Harrison's command, and 1 horse belonging to the same.

Twelfth. Captured at different times from refugee negro recruits 25 mules. Captured on the 7th day of February, 1864, off Gibson's plantation, 39 head of beef-cattle.

REMARKS.

First. As regards Mr. Bowman's case, who is a right-hand man of the rebel Colonel Harrison, the gold and silver was found in a small box in the garret with the U. S. mail in the same box, having muslin sewed around it; also, 6 new mess chests, found on same place. Said gold and silver was deposited on board gun-boat No. 9, to await General McArthur's orders. The said Bowman has been in the habit of leaving his house every day for some time, and returning home late at night, and therefore have every evidence of his being a leading guerrilla.

Second. The other property belonged to parties not having protection papers of any kind, and believe them to be rank rebels.

Third. Twenty-nine head of the mules was shipped on or about the 3d day of February, 1864, and turned over to the quartermaster at this post.

Fourth. The cattle and all of the mules and horses, with the exception of those which were in use on the day of the engagement (13th February), were either turned loose by some party not as yet satisfactorily proven, or broke away from their confinement.

Fifth. On February 13, learning that the rebels had crossed Tensas River and advancing on me, evidently for the purpose of crossing some 1,500 head of cattle over to the Mississippi shore, while a portion of their troops would engage me, I immediately sent out a mounted party of 28 men, in charge of Lieutenant Keislar, of the Eleventh Louisiana Volunteers, African descent, and William L. Jarvis, of the Seventy-second Illinois, to make a reconnaissance. When about 8 miles back they were fired on by rebel pickets, among whom 3 citizens were recognized, 2 of whom (Watson and Weast) had taken the oath of allegiance. My scouts drove them back, capturing several prisoners, when some 300 rebel cavalry suddenly dashed upon them. My scouts retreated in good order for camp. When within 2 miles of camp the cavalry overtook my troops, and a hand-to-hand fight ensued. Our loss was 11 killed, the (rebels) enemy losing 15. A re-enforcement was sent out by me of two companies of infantry and one piece of artillery. The enemy immediately fell

back. They again attacked the town on the morning of the 14th and 15th, but were repulsed. On Monday, 22d February, 1864, the rebels again recrossed the Tensas River with two regiments of cavalry, two of infantry, and six pieces of artillery. On Tuesday morning, the 23d, they were to charge on Waterproof, the artillery engaging the gun-boat while the cavalry and infantry were to charge on my fortifications. Having sent a spy within their lines and found their forces and intentions, I withdrew my forces in good order at 12 o'clock Monday night, at the suggestion of Captain Johnson of gun-boat No. 9.

After arriving at this place I gave notice to General McArthur and received orders to send the troops to their respective commands, and turn over the captured property to Captain Finkler, assistant quartermaster, and ordnance to Lieutenant Chaffee, ordnance officer; all of which was done and receipts taken.

I would recommend to your favorable notice William Northedge, late colonel of the Fifty-ninth New York Volunteers, who rendered valuable service throughout the whole campaign.

I am, captain, your humble servant,

J. M. ANDERSON,
*Captain Eightieth Ohio, Commanding Expedition.*

Capt. S. L. TAGGART,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 7, 1864.—Expedition from Maryville, Tenn., to Quallatown, N. C.**

*Report of Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army.*

KNOXVILLE, *February* 7, 1864.

I have the honor to report that an expedition against Colonel Thomas and his band of Indians and whites at Quallatown has returned completely successful. They surprised the town, killed and wounded 215, took 50 prisoners, and dispersed the remainder of the gang in the mountains. Our loss, 2 killed and 6 wounded.

J. G. FOSTER,
*Major-General.*

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

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**FEBRUARY 1, 1864.—Expedition from Knoxville to Flat Creek, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. John R. Bond, One hundred and eleventh Ohio Infantry.*

HDQRS. 111TH REGIMENT OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
*February* 2, 1864.

SIR: On the morning of the 1st of February I was directed by Colonel Chapin, commanding brigade, to take command of an expedition toward Strawberry Plains, in pursuance of Special Orders, No. 12, from division headquarters.

At 8.30 a. m. the One hundred and eleventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and the One hundred and seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry moved from camp, proceeding up the track of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad to the picket-line of the Thirteenth Kentucky and Twenty-third Michigan, where a halt was ordered for a short time, allowing the Twenty-third Michigan to move from camp and join the column.

I then threw out skirmishers in front, and proceeded to within 5 miles of Flat Creek, at a point on the railroad where the wagon road diverges from the track, where I ordered Major Wheeler, of the Twenty-third Michigan, to detach a portion of his regiment, ordering them to move up the wagon road on a parallel line with the head of the main column, rejoining us at Flat Creek bridge.

We arrived at the bridge at 2 p. m., when I sent Company F, Captain Hill, and Company H, Captain Smith, of the One hundred and eleventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on a scout in the direction of Strawberry Plains.

At 4 p. m. the scouting party returned, reporting that they had proceeded to within 2 miles of the plains, seeing no enemy, and from the best information which they could obtain there was no considerable force of the enemy at or near the plains, only 3 of the enemy being reported at that place.

At 4 p. m., having loaded the train and accomplished the object of the expedition, the column commenced the march in return, and at 10 p. m. went into camp near Knoxville.

All of the foregoing report is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,

JNO. R. BOND,

*Colonel One hundred and eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry.*

Capt. R. C. KISE,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**FEBRUARY 1–2, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Maryville toward Sevierville, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Samuel Beatty, U. S. Army.

No. 2.—Lieut. Col. James P. Brownlow, First Tennessee Cavalry.

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Samuel Beatty, U. S. Army.*

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., THIRD DIV., FOURTH ARMY CORPS,
*Maryville, Tenn., February 2,* 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of a reconnaissance made under my direction, to wit:

At 2 a. m., February 1, instant, I received orders from Brigadier-General Willich, commanding Third Division, Fourth Army Corps, to take two regiments of my brigade, and with two regiments of cavalry and a section of artillery which were to report to me, to make a reconnaissance toward Sevierville to ascertain the whereabouts of the enemy. At 8 o'clock Lieutenant White, commanding

section of Bridges' Battery, Illinois Volunteers, reported to me, and I marched to Little River, on the main road from Maryville to Sevierville, where I awaited the cavalry. Lieut. Col. J. P. Brownlow reported to me at 2 p. m., in command of the First Regiment Tennessee Cavalry and Fourth Indiana Cavalry, and I ordered the command to cross, and the advance of the cavalry to march to Trundle's Cross-Roads and halt for the night. I halted the infantry at McGloskey's in bivouac.

At dawn this morning I ordered the command to advance. Colonel Brownlow, commanding the cavalry, was ordered to advance to discover certainly the position of the enemy. At 8.30 o'clock I received the information from Colonel Brownlow that the enemy, consisting of one corps of cavalry, under General Martin (two divisions, commanded respectively by Generals Armstrong and Morgan), and three brigades of infantry, under General Johnson, were fortifying in the fork of the French Broad and Pigeon Rivers, 2½ miles west from Sevierville and about 14 miles southwest from Dandridge. The object of the reconnaissance being accomplished, I ordered the command to return to camp at Maryville, where I arrived at 4 p. m.

We had no casualties in the command.

Respectfully referring to the report of Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow, I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAM. BEATTY,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Commanding.*

Capt. CARL SCHMITT,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Third Div., Fourth Army Corps.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Lieut. Col. James P. Brownlow, First Tennessee Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST TENNESSEE CAVALRY,
*Maryville, Tenn., February* 2, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of operations of my command from January 31 to February 3, 1864:

On the 1st of February, in accordance with orders from headquarters First Division Cavalry, Army of the Cumberland, I reported with the First Tennessee Cavalry and Fourth Indiana, Major Purdy commanding, to Brigadier-General Beatty, commanding detachment, who ordered me to advance as far as Trundle's Cross-Roads, 16 miles from Maryville, and encamp for the night, with orders to move in the direction of Sevierville next morning at 5.30 o'clock.

I moved promptly, in obedience to orders, as far as Boyd's Creek, within 8 miles of Sevierville, where I ascertained that the enemy (one corps of cavalry under General Martin, comprising Armstrong's and Morgan's divisions, and three brigades of infantry under General Johnson) were fortifying in the fork of French Broad and Pigeon Rivers, 2½ miles west of Sevierville and 14 miles southwest of Dandridge. After satisfying myself perfectly that the information was reliable, I returned to camp at this place without any loss.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. P. BROWNLOW,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

**FEBRUARY 1–7, 1864.—Scout in White and Putnam Counties, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. William B. Stokes, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER CAVALRY,
*Alexandria, De Kalb County, Tenn., February 7*, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to state that, in obedience to orders from the major-general commanding the district, I proceeded with 150 of my command from Nashville on the 29th ultimo, and arrived at this place on the 30th ultimo, meeting a courier from General Paine, with a dispatch stating that the expedition up the country was a failure, but requested me to meet him at Carthage on the 31st.

On my arrival at Carthage I found that General Paine had gone up the river with about 300 men under Colonel McConnell, and was to form a junction with Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson, Fifty-second Kentucky Mounted Infantry, who drove the rebels across the river at Flynn's Lick. I immediately sent Captain Brandon in command of 30 men with a dispatch to General Paine and Colonel McConnell, stating that I would move my command of 200 men (Captains Blackburn and Waters having joined me near Liberty) at once toward Sparta.

I moved out at 7 a. m. on the 1st of February, crossed Caney Fork at Pin Hook above Sligo, and encamped for the night.

Moved out at daylight the next morning. Upon arriving at Sparta, my advance ran a few rebels out, about 30 in number, some going north, others south from that place. I then turned the command toward Cookville and up Calfkiller River, near Yankeetown. I came up with a squad and killed 3. Bivouacked for the night 8 miles from Cookville.

On the 3d, at 10 a. m., arrived at Cookville, and found that Colonel McConnell had left, going in the direction of Livingston. I immediately proceeded over on the Calfkiller, and encamped near the notorious Champ Ferguson's. I found there some 20 or 30 rebels, who fled as usual at first sight.

From Ferguson's we moved down the river to Yankeetown, dividing the command into three squads, one taking the road through Sparta and Rock Island, another on the Nashville road, and the third on the right through Bunker Hill and Falling Waters to Lancaster. I arrived here to-day. The scout was successful.

We killed 17 of the worst men in the country, to wit, Capt. James Davis (chief of Confederate scouts, brother of A. L. Davis, of Nashville), who had on his person a pass with the oath indorsed; Captain Conley, Jack Coger, Bill Allcorn, Milt. Hawkins, Neely, Dyer, Melton, and others. Most of these men are known to have been engaged in murder, robbery, and rape; in fact, all were accessory to the outrages committed through this country. We took 12 prisoners, and captured about 20 horses and mules.

The people were very much excited, with very few signs of loyalty, yet I was assured by a few good citizens that on my guaranty to the citizens of protection they would submit, take the oath, and henceforth prove loyal. They also stated that a number of rebel deserters would lay down their arms and quit, if permitted to do so.

Forage will be very hard to obtain near Sparta, it being very scarce and scattered. I will reach that point in a few days. It will take some time and continued scouting to break up these bands, but you may be assured no time will be lost and no effort spared to

rid the country of them. I will add that the scout, under Colonel McConnell, killed 23 and captured 40 men. From the best information I can obtain, the rebel force, when concentrated, will number 500 or 600 men, finely mounted but poorly armed.

I am, captain, very respectfully your obedient servant,

W. B. STOKES,
*Colonel, Comdg. Fifth Tenneseee Volunteer Cavalry.*

Capt. B. H. POLK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**FEBRUARY 2, 1864.—Skirmish near La Grange, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. John McGuirk, Third Mississippi Cavalry.*

FEBRUARY 2, 1864—5.30 p. m.
(Via Waterford, 3d.)

Yesterday at 11 a. m., when I was about starting for Moscow, my scouts reported the enemy in force at Junction. I went with my command to the edge of the place and offered them battle, which they declined, and remained in the fort. They were confined closely in the fort. I did not allow them to picket outside. At dark retired with my regiment and went into the fortifications at La Grange, where I remained until sunrise this morning, when I moved out, being exhausted and horses without forage twenty-four hours. I was, on this account only, compelled to abandon the town and move to forage my command. After I had left the place they attacked my rear guard and harassed me in such manner that I was compelled to cross the river south, which I did at a blind ford, near Ammon's Bridge. My command was diminished on account of the broken-down horses; those I sent to the rear with prisoners yesterday. I will move to my wagons and report my locality as soon as taken. Report states that the party that assailed my rear was commanded by Major Smith, and numbered 1,500, being detachments from several regiments brought from Denmark and other places in Tennessee. They are coming from Memphis, and could be cut off east of Collierville. They would not attack me in line. I could not maneuver on account of exhaustion.

JNO. McGUIRK,
*Colonel, Commanding Third Mississippi Cavalry.*

Brigadier-General CHALMERS.

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**FEBRUARY 2, 1864.—Operations about Whitesburg, Ala.**

*Report of Lieut. Col. John E. Tourtellotte, Fourth Minnesota Infantry.*

WHITESBURG, ALA.,
*February* 2, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to instructions from General Smith, I have the honor to state that all is quiet at this point of the Tennessee River. There has been some skirmishing, which only operated to stop working on our boats for about an hour. No damage has been

done to our men, and I presume none has been done to the rebels. We have constructed two boats, which, if properly pitched or tarred, would carry easily 12 to 15 men each. We have succeeded in securing and destroying a fine large dug-out belonging to the rebels. There is a ferry-boat on the river below. It crosses at no particular point, but whenever opportunity offers. I have had men concealed on the bank to secure the boat two nights. It did not cross the first night, and I have not yet had a report from the parties I sent out last night. The boat is some 5 miles below here. We have thrown up little rifle-pits on this side, which are of no consequence except the appearance of covering our crossing at this place. I send by the bearer to-day for two days' more rations. The guards report to me that they have reason to believe that re-enforcements came to the rebels opposite night before last. I mention this to show that perhaps our expedition has in such degree proved successful.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. TOURTELLOTTE,
*Lieut. Col., Fourth Minnesota, Commanding Expedition.*

Captain M. ROCHESTER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Meheway reported captured on the other side of the river, and Arnold, if they should get him, should be safely guarded.

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**FEBRUARY 3-MARCH 6, 1864.—The Meridian, Miss., Expedition and co-operating expeditions from Memphis, Tenn., and up the Yazoo River.**

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Feb. 3, 1864.—General Sherman's column advances from Vicksburg.
Action at Liverpool Heights, Yazoo River.
4, 1864.—Skirmish opposite Liverpool Heights.
Skirmish at Champion's Hill.
Skirmish at Queen's Hill.
Skirmish at Edwards' Ferry.
Skirmish near Bolton Depot.
5, 1864.—Skirmish on Baker's Creek.
Skirmish at Clinton.
Skirmish at Jackson.
6, 1864.—Skirmish at Hillsborough.
6-18, 1864.—Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to Wyatt, Miss.
7, 1864.—Skirmish at Brandon.
Skirmish at Morton.
Skirmish at Satartia.
8, 1864.—Affair at Coldwater Ferry.
Skirmish near Morton.
8- 9, 1864.—Skirmishes at and near Senatobia.
9-Mar. 6, 1864.—Yazoo City occupied by the Union forces.
10, 1864.—Skirmish at Hillsborough.
Skirmish at Morton.
11, 1864.—General W. Sooy Smith's column advances from Collierville, Tenn.
Affair at Raiford's Plantation, near Byhalia.

Feb. 12, 1864.—Affair at Wall Hill.
Skirmish at Holly Springs.
13, 1864.—Skirmish at Wyatt.
13–14, 1864.—Skirmishes between Chunky Creek and Meridian.
14–20, 1864.—Meridian occupied by the Union forces.
15–17, 1864.—Skirmishes at Marion Station.
16, 1864.—Skirmish at Lauderdale Springs.
17, 1864.—Skirmish near Pontotoc.
Skirmish in the Houlka Swamp, near Houston.
18, 1864.—Affair near Okolona.
Skirmish at Aberdeen.
19, 1864.—Skirmish near Houston.
Skirmish at Egypt Station.
Skirmish near Meridian.
20, 1864.—Skirmish near West Point.
21, 1864.—Skirmish at Ellis' Bridge.
Skirmish at West Point, and General W. Sooy Smith's column in retreat.
Skirmish at Prairie Station.
Skirmish near Okolona.
21–22, 1864.—Skirmishes at Union.
22, 1864.—Engagement near Okolona.
Skirmish at Ivey's Hill, or Farm.
Skirmish on the Tallahatchie.
23, 1864.—Skirmish near New Albany.
24, 1864.—Skirmish at Tippah River.
Skirmish at Canton.
25, 1864.—Affair near Hudsonville.
26, 1864.—Skirmish near Canton.
27, 1864.—Affair at Madisonville.
Skirmish at Sharon.
28, 1864.—Skirmishes on Pearl River.
Skirmish near Yazoo City.
29, 1864.—Skirmish near Canton.
Mar. 2, 1864.—Skirmish at Canton.
3, 1864.—Skirmish at Liverpool.
Skirmish at Brownsville.
4, 1864.—General Sherman's column arrives at Vicksburg.
5, 1864.—Attack on Yazoo City.
6, 1864.—Yazoo City abandoned by the Union forces.

## REPORTS, ETC.*

No. 1.—Composition of the Meridian Expedition, under command of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, and the co-operating columns under command of Brig. Gen. W. Sooy Smith and Col. James H. Coates.

No. 2.—Abstract from returns for February 29, 1864, of the troops composing the Meridian Expedition and Smith's co-operating column.

No. 3.—Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Tennessee.

No. 4.—Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps, of expedition to Meridian, with itinerary of the corps, January 26–March 10.

*For Union correspondence relative to this expedition, in December, 1863, see Series I, Vol. XXXI, Part III.

No. 5.—Itinerary of the First Division, Brig. Gen. James M. Tuttle, U. S. Army, commanding, February 1–27.

No. 6.—Col. William L. McMillen, Ninety-fifth Ohio Infantry, commanding First Brigade, of expedition from Memphis to Wyatt, with itinerary of the brigade, February 6–18.

No. 7.—Return of Casualties in the Third Division, Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Smith, U. S. Army, commanding, February 3–March 4.

No. 8.—Itinerary of the First Brigade, Col. David Moore, Twenty-first Missouri Infantry, commanding, February 2–27.

No. 9.—Itinerary of the Second Brigade, Col. William T. Shaw, Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, commanding, February 3–March 4.

No. 10.—Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 11.—Col. Milton Montgomery, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Infantry, commanding First Brigade, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 12.—Lieut. Col. Jeremiah M. Rusk, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 13.—Itinerary of the Second Brigade, Col. James H. Howe, Thirty-second Wisconsin Infantry, commanding, February 3–March 31.

No. 14.—Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps, of expedition to Meridian and operations on Yazoo River, with itinerary of the corps, February 3–March 18.

No. 15.—Capt. Andrew Hickenlooper, Fifth Ohio Battery, Chief Engineer, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 16.—Capt. Lucius M. Rose, Chief Acting Signal Officer, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 17.—Brig. Gen. Alexander Chambers, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade, First Division, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 18.—Col. William Hall, Eleventh Iowa Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 19.—Col. William W. Belknap, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 20.—Lieut. Col. Addison H. Sanders, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 21.—Brig. Gen. Mortimer D. Leggett, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, of expedition to Meridian, with itinerary of the division.

No. 22.—Brig. Gen. Manning F. Force, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 23.—Lieut. Col. Daniel Bradley, Twentieth Illinois Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 24.—Maj. Harry Almon, Thirty-first Illinois Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 25.—Maj. John O. Duer, Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 26.—Lieut. Col. John H. Howe, One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 27.—Brig. Gen. Marcellus M. Crocker, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 28.—Lieut. William C. B. Gillespie, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, quartermaster First Brigade, of operations February 26–28.

No. 29.—Capt. John Potter, Fifty-third Illinois Infantry, of skirmishes on Pearl River.

No. 30.—Maj. George W. Crosley, Third Iowa Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 31.—Col. Jonathan B. Moore, Thirty-third Wisconsin Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 32.—Col. Cyrus Hall, Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 33.—Brig. Gen. Walter Q. Gresham, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 34.—Col. Edward F. Winslow, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, commanding Cavalry, Seventeenth Army Corps, of expedition to Meridian.

No. 35.—Brig. Gen. W. Sooy Smith, U. S. Army, commanding expedition from Memphis, including operations since December 28, 1863.

No. 36.—Brig. Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, of expedition from Memphis, with itinerary of the division for February and March.

No. 37.—Col. George E. Waring, jr., Fourth Missouri Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Brigade, of operations January 22–February 27.

No. 38.—Capt. Franklin Moore, Second Illinois Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 27.

No. 39.—Col. John P. C. Shanks, Seventh Indiana Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 9.

No. 40.—Lieut. Col. Thomas M. Browne, Seventh Indiana Cavalry, of operations February 6–27.

No. 41.—Maj. Edward Langen, Fourth Missouri Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 8.

No. 42.—Maj. Gustav Heinrichs, Fourth Missouri Cavalry, of operations February 11–27.

No. 43.—Col. Joseph Kargé, Second New Jersey Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 27.

No. 44.—Lieut. Col. Joseph C. Hess, Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 17.

No. 45.—Maj. Amos J. Holahan, Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, of operations February 16–27.

No. 46.—Lieut. Col. William P. Hepburn, Second Iowa Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, of operations February 11–26.

No. 47.—Lieut. Col. Mathew H. Starr, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, of operations February 11–26.

No. 48.—Lieut. Col. George W. Trafton, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, of operations February 11–26.

No. 49.—Lieut. Col. Henry B. Burgh, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, of operations February 11–26.

No. 50.—Maj. Datus E. Coon, Second Iowa Cavalry, of operations February 11–26.

No. 51.—Lieut. Isaac W. Curtis, Battery K, First Illinois Light Artillery, of operations February 11–26.

No. 52.—Col. La Fayette McCrillis, Third Illinois Cavalry, commanding Third Brigade, of operations February 10–26.

No. 53.—Capt. Andrew B. Kirkbride, Third Illinois Cavalry, of operations February 13–26.

No. 54.—Maj. Henry M. Carr, Seventy-second Indiana Infantry (mounted), of operations February 22.

No. 55.—Maj. Christopher T. Cheek, Fifth Kentucky Cavalry, of operations February 22–23.

No. 56.—Maj. William R. McBath, Second Tennessee Cavalry, of operations February 10–26.

No. 57.—Maj. John B. Minnis, Third Tennessee Cavalry, of operations February 10–26.

No. 58.—Lieut. Col. Jacob M. Thornburgh, Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, of operations February 10–26.

No. 59.—Col. James H. Coates, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, commanding Yazoo Expedition.
No. 60.—Itinerary of the First Brigade, First Division, U. S. Colored Troops, Brig. Gen. Isaac F. Shepard, U. S. Army, commanding, February 10–29.
No. 61.—Organization of the Army commanded by Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk, C. S. Army, February 20.
No. 62.—Abstract from Field Return of the Army commanded by Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk, C. S. Army, February 20.
No. 63.—Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk, C. S. Army.
No. 64.—Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army, of operations against expedition from Memphis.
No. 65.—Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army, of operations against expedition to Meridian.
No. 66.—Brig. Gen. William H. Jackson, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Division, of operations against expedition to Meridian.
No. 67.—Brig. Gen. Wirt Adams, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Brigade, of operations against expedition to Meridian.
No. 68.—Col. Peter B. Starke, Twenty-eighth Mississippi Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Brigade, of operations against expedition to Meridian.
No. 69.—Brig. Gen. Samuel W. Ferguson, C. S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations against expedition to Meridian.
No. 70.—Lieut. Addison Harvey, commanding Scouts, of operations against expedition to Meridian.
No. 71.—Brig. Gen. Robert V. Richardson, C. S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations on the Yazoo River.
No. 72.—Brig. Gen. Lawrence S. Ross, C. S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations on the Yazoo River.

## No. 1.

*Composition of the Meridian Expedition, under command of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, and the co-operating columns under command of Brig. Gen. W. Sooy Smith and Col. James H. Coates.*

SHERMAN'S ESCORT.

4th Illinois Cavalry, Company A, Lieut. Samuel A. Lowe.

SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Maj. Gen. STEPHEN A. HURLBUT.

FIRST DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JAMES M. TUTTLE.

*First Brigade.**

Col. WILLIAM L. MCMILLEN.

114th Illinois, Lieut. Col. John F. King.
93d Indiana, Maj. Samuel S. Crowe.
72d Ohio, Lieut. Col. Charles G. Eaton.
95th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Jefferson Brumback.

*Second Brigade.†*

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH A. MOWER.

47th Illinois, Col. John D. McClure.
5th Minnesota, Col. Lucius F. Hubbard.
11th Missouri, Lieut. Col. William L. Barnum.
8th Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. John W. Jefferson.

* The First Brigade and Battery E, First Illinois Light Artillery, co-operated February 6 to 15 with Smith's column moving from Memphis. and had no further part in the Meridian campaign.

† Went into camp at Big Black River bridge, February 4. On February 27 the brigade started for Canton as guard to supply train for the army.

*Third Brigade.**

Col. JAMES L. GEDDES.

8th Iowa, Lieut. Col. William B. Bell.
12th Iowa, Lieut. Col. John H. Stibbs,
35th Iowa, Col. Sylvester G. Hill.

*Artillery.*

Capt. NELSON T. SPOOR.

1st Illinois Light, Battery E (First Brigade), Lieut. John A. Fitch.
Indiana Light, 6th Battery (Third Brigade), Lieut. Louis Kern.
Iowa Light, 2d Battery (Second Brigade), Lieut. Joseph R. Reed.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. ANDREW J. SMITH.

*First Brigade.*

Col. DAVID MOORE.

58th Illinois, Col. William F. Lynch.
119th Illinois, Col. Thomas J. Kinney.
89th Indiana, Col. Charles D. Murray.
21st Missouri, Major Edwin Moore.

*Second Brigade.*

Col. WILLIAM T. SHAW.

14th Iowa, Lieut. Col. Joseph H. Newbold.
27th Iowa, Col. James I. Gilbert.
32d Iowa, Col. John Scott.
24th Missouri, Col. James K. Mills.

*Third Brigade.*

Col. EDWARD H. WOLFE.
Col. RISDON M. MOORE.†

49th Illinois, Lieut. Col. William W. Bishop.
117th Illinois, Col. Risdon M. Moore; Lieut. Col. Jonathan Merriam.
52d Indiana, Maj. William T. Strickland.
178th New York, Col. Edward Wehler.

*Artillery.*

Capt. JAMES M. COCKEFAIR.

Indiana Light, 3d Battery, Lieut. Thomas J. Ginn.
Indiana Light, 9th Battery, Capt. George R. Brown.
Indiana Light, 14th Battery, Lieut. Francis W. Morse.

FOURTH DIVISION.‡

Brig. Gen. JAMES C. VEATCH.

*First Brigade.*

Col. MILTON MONTGOMERY.

33d Missouri, Lieut. Col. William H. Heath.
35th New Jersey, Lieut. Col. William A. Henry.
25th Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Jeremiah M. Rusk.

*Second Brigade.*

Col. JAMES H. HOWE.

25th Indiana, Lieut. Col. John Rheinlander.
17th New York (veteran), Col. William T. C. Grower.
32d Wisconsin, Maj. Charles H. De Groat.
2d Illinois Light Artillery, Battery D (section), Capt. Charles S. Cooper.

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* Went into camp at Big Black River bridge, February 4.
† In command from February 28.
‡ Detachment.

## SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Maj. Gen. JAMES B. MCPHERSON

ESCORT.

4th Illinois Cavalry, Companies B, C, and D, Capt. Garrett L. Collins.
4th Independent Company Ohio Cavalry, Capt. John S. Foster.

FIRST DIVISION.

*Third Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. ALEXANDER CHAMBERS.

11th Iowa, Col. William Hall.
13th Iowa, Col. John Shane.
15th Iowa, Col. William W. Belknap.
16th Iowa, Lieut. Col. Addison H. Sanders.
1st Missouri Light Artillery, Batteries C and M (4 guns), Lieut. John H. Tiemeyer.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. MORTIMER D. LEGGETT.

*Escort.*

2d Wisconsin Cavalry, Company H, Capt. Ernest J. Meyers.

*First Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. MANNING F. FORCE.

20th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Daniel Bradley.
31st Illinois, Lieut. Col. Robert N. Pearson.
45th Illinois, Maj. John O. Duer.
124th Illinois, Lieut. Col. John H. Howe.

*Second Brigade.*

Col. BENJAMIN F. POTTS.

20th Ohio, Lieut. Col. John C. Fry.
32d Ohio, Lieut. Col. Jefferson J. Hibbets.
68th Ohio, Lieut. Col. George E. Welles.
78th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Greenberry F. Wiles.

*Third Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. JASPER A. MALTBY.

8th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Josiah A. Sheetz.
17th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Francis M. Smith.
30th Illinois, Col. Warren Shedd.
7th Missouri, Col. William S. Oliver.

*Artillery.*

Capt. WILLIAM S. WILLIAMS.

1st Michigan Light, Battery H, Lieut. Marcus D. Elliott.
Ohio Light, 3d Battery,* Lieut. Thomas J. Blackburn.

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* Detachment 26th Ohio Battery attached.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. MARCELLUS M. CROCKER.

*Escort.*

11th Illinois Cavalry, Company G, Capt. Stephen S. Tripp.

*First Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. THOMAS KILBY SMITH.

41st Illinois, Lieut. Col. John H. Nale.
53d Illinois, Maj. Rolland H. Allison.
3d Iowa, Maj. George W. Crosley.
33d Wisconsin, Col. Jonathan B. Moore.

*Second Brigade.*

Col. CYRUS HALL.

14th Illinois, Maj. John F. Nolte.
15th Illinois, Col. George C. Rogers.
76th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Charles C. Jones.

*Third Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. WALTER Q. GRESHAM.

32d Illinois, Lieut. Col. George H. English.
23d Indiana, Lieut. Col. William P. Davis.
53d Indiana, Lieut. Col. William Jones.
12th Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. James K. Proudfit.

*Artillery.*

Capt. JOHN W. POWELL.

2d Illinois Light, Battery F, Lieut. Walter H. Powell.
Ohio Light, 7th Battery, Lieut. Harlow P. McNaughton.
Ohio Light, 15th Battery, Capt. Edward Spear, jr.

CAVALRY.

Col. EDWARD F. WINSLOW.

5th Illinois, Maj. Abel H. Seley.
11th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Lucien H. Kerr.
4th Iowa, Lieut. Col. John H. Peters.
10th Missouri, Lieut. Col. Frederick W. Benteen.

SMITH'S COLUMN.

Brig. Gen. W. SOOY SMITH.*

CAVALRY DIVISION.†

Brig. Gen. BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON.

*First Brigade.*

Col. GEORGE E. WARING, Jr.

2d Illinois (5 companies), Capt. Franklin Moore.
7th Indiana, Col. John P. C. Shanks.
4th Missouri,‡ Maj. Gustav Heinrichs.
2d New Jersey, Col. Joseph Kargé.
19th Pennsylvania:
Lieut. Col. Joseph C. Hess.
Maj. Amos J. Holahan.§

*Second Brigade.*

Lieut. Col. WILLIAM P. HEPBURN.

6th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Mathew H. Starr.
7th Illinois, Lieut. Col. George W. Trafton.
9th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Henry B. Burgh.
2d Iowa, Maj. Datus E. Coon.
1st Illinois Light Artillery, Battery K, Lieut. Isaac W. Curtis.

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*Chief of Cavalry, Military Division of the Mississippi.
†16th Army Corps.
‡Companies A and B, brigade provost guard.
§In command from February 16.

*Third Brigade.*

Col. LA FAYETTE MCCRILLIS.

3d Illinois (5 companies), Capt. Andrew B. Kirkbride.
72d Indiana (mounted infantry), Maj. Henry M. Carr.
5th Kentucky, Maj. Christopher T. Cheek.
2d Tennessee:
Lieut. Col. William R. Cook.*
Maj. William F. Prosser.
3d Tennessee, Maj. John B. Minnis.
4th Tennessee, Lieut. Col. Jacob M. Thornburgh.

UNASSIGNED.

4th United States, Capt. Charles S. Bowman.

YAZOO EXPEDITION.

Col. JAMES H. COATES.

11th Illinois, Maj. George C. McKee.
8th Louisiana (A. D.) Lieut. Col. Ferdinand E. Peebles.
1st Mississippi Cavalry (A. D.), Col. Embury D. Osband.

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## No. 2.

*Abstract from returns for February 29, 1864, of the troops composing the Meridian Expedition and Smith's co-operating column.*

| Command. | Present for duty. | | Aggregate present. | Aggregate present and absent. | Pieces of field artillery. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | | | |
| Meridian Expedition: | | | | | |
| Sixteenth Army Corps: | | | | | |
| First Division† | 174 | 2,752 | 3,518 | 4,558 | 8 |
| Third Division | 237 | 4,465 | 5,244 | 6,854 | 14 |
| Fourth Division | 102 | 1,935 | 2,275 | 3,735 | 4 |
| Seventeenth Army Corps: | | | | | |
| Headquarters | 16 | 27 | 93 | 99 | ..... |
| First Division (Third Brigade)‡ | 88 | 1,331 | 1,517 | 2,329 | 4 |
| Third Division | 256 | 5,133 | 6,309 | 8,640 | 16 |
| Fourth Division | 219 | 4,832 | 5,620 | 7,641 | 16 |
| Cavalry | 81 | 1,871 | 2,271 | 4,215 | 4 |
| Total Meridian Expedition | 1,173 | 22,346 | 26,847 | 38,071 | 66 |
| Memphis column: | | | | | |
| Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps | 279 | 5,934 | 7,157 | 9,854 | 12 |
| Fourth U. S. Cavalry | 13 | 378 | 450 | 876 | ..... |
| Total Memphis column | 292 | 6,312 | 7,607 | 10,730 | 12 |
| Grand total | 1,465 | 28,658 | 34,454 | 48,801 | 78 |

* Wounded and captured February 22.
† Exclusive of First Brigade.
‡ Compiled from regimental returns.

No. 3.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Tennessee.*

VICKSBURG, MISS.,
*February 27*, 1864.

GENERAL: I got in this morning from Canton, where I left my army in splendid heart and condition.

We reached Jackson February 6, crossed Pearl and passed through Brandon to Morton, where the enemy made dispositions for battle but fled in the night; pushed on over all obstacles and reached Meridian February 14.

General Polk, having a railroad to assist him in his retreat, escaped across the Tombigbee on the 17th.

We staid at Meridian a week, and made the most complete destruction of railroads ever beheld; south below Quitman, east to Cuba Station, 20 miles north to Lauderdale Springs, and west all the way back to Jackson. I could hear nothing of the cavalry force of General William Sooy Smith, ordered to be there by February 10.

I inclose this by mail with a copy of his instructions.*

I then began to move back slowly, making a circuit by the north to Canton, where I left the army yesterday in splendid condition. I will leave it there five days in hopes the cavalry from Memphis will turn up. Then I will have them come in.

Banks writes he will be ready for his Red River trip March 5, and will want 10,000 men of me. I will run down to see him tonight; also Admiral Porter, who is near Red River. I know if we wipe out Shreveport as I have done Meridian you can safely call for 20,000 men from here and Arkansas in all April.†

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General.*

General J. A. RAWLINS,
*Nashville, Tenn.*

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March 7*, 1864.

GENERAL: I now have the honor to submit a report of the recent operations in the State of Mississippi:

You will remember that when in July last Vicksburg surrendered and a detachment from the Army of the Tennessee under my command had pushed the rebel army of General Johnston into and beyond Jackson, it was the purpose to go on eastward and destroy the remaining railroads of the State in and near Meridian.

The period of the year, the intense heat and drought, and the condition of our men after the long siege of Vicksburg rendered the accomplishment of the plan then impracticable, and it had to be deferred to a later period.

Events subsequently occurred during September in East Tennes-

*See inclosure No. 3, p. 181.

†This dispatch without the inclosure was telegraphed to Halleck and Grant from Cairo, March 10, 1864.

see which called General Grant and my command to that quarter, but as soon as Chattanooga and Knoxville became secure and a respite was needed to repair the railroads to the rear, time and an opportunity were offered to accomplish what had before been designed.

I offered, if permitted, to break up the useless line of railroad from Memphis to Corinth, to attempt the destruction of Meridian without calling for a single man from the army in the field.

Accordingly, disposing of my then command so as to cover and assist in repairing the railroads from Nashville to Decatur and Stevenson, with General Grant's approval I returned in person to the Mississippi River, reaching Memphis January 10.

I immediately ordered General Hurlbut to abandon Corinth and all minor points, draw in all public property, and forthwith prepare for field service two good divisions of 5,000 men each, ready to embark by the 25th. I found General William Sooy Smith, chief of cavalry on General Grant's staff, at Memphis. He had come from Middle Tennessee with about 2,500 cavalry in pursuit of Forrest, who had in the mean time left West Tennessee and fallen back of the Tallahatchie. I ordered all the effective cavalry at once also to be assembled and got ready for the field. I found on General Hurlbut's tri-monthly return of January 10, 1864, for duty, an aggregate of cavalry of 9,231, with 7,638 serviceable horses. This, with the 2,500 brought with General Smith, gave us over 10,000 effective cavalrymen and horses.

Having made these preliminary orders, I then hastened to Vicksburg and gave General McPherson similar orders for two divisions of infantry and artillery; then back again to Memphis, where I remained until the 27th.

In the meantime I learned the strength and distribution of the enemy I had to encounter, which was about as follows: On the 1st of February Lieutenant-General Polk, chief in command at Meridian, scattered companies of cavalry and infantry all over the State, collecting taxes and forcing conscripts—at Canton, Loring's division of infantry, 18 guns, and about 7,000 men; at Brandon, French's broken division of 10 guns and 3,000 men; two brigades subsequently joined French from Mobile, making his force about 5,000. Major-General Forrest commanded the cavalry district of North Mississippi, headquarters at Como; estimated force, 4,000. Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Lee commanded the southern district of Mississippi, headquarters at Jackson. He had General Jackson's division of three brigades, Ross', Starke's, and Wirt Adams' posted in a semicircle behind Vicksburg, and Ferguson's brigade was at this time coming to Jackson from Okolona. Lee's cavalry was about 4,000 strong.

My object was to break up the enemy's railroads at and about Meridian, and to do the enemy as much damage as possible in the month of February, and to be prepared by the 1st of March to assist General Banks in a similar dash at the Red River country, especially Shreveport, the whole to result in widening our domain along the Mississippi River, and thereby set the troops hitherto necessary to guard the river free for other military purposes.

My plan of action was as follows: General William Sooy Smith to move from Memphis by or before the 1st of February with an effective force of 7,000 cavalry lightly equipped, to march straight on Pontotoc, Okolona, Columbus Junction (Artesia), and Meridian, to

arrive there about February 10, distance 250 miles; to disregard all minor objects, to destroy railroads, bridges, corn not wanted, and strike quick and well every enemy that should offer opposition, while I with four good divisions of infantry and artillery would at the same time move from Vicksburg on the same objective points, 150 miles distant. When met at Meridian, being present in person, I could then order anew according to the then circumstances, condition of roads, and time left at my disposal.

I knew full well what would be the effect of this move, and in all my orders and instructions I dwelt particularly on the point of making no detachments, but to go straight to the one sole object, leaving the minor matters to the future.

I inclose herewith my instructions to General Smith with a copy of his report, and must say it is unsatisfactory. The delay in his start to the 11th of February, when his orders contemplated his being at Meridian on the 10th, and when he knew I was marching from Vicksburg, is unpardonable, and the mode and manner of his return to Memphis was not what I expected from an intended bold cavalry movement. I know that from February 1st to the 17th all of Lee's cavalry was to my front. We took daily prisoners from each brigade, so that General Smith had nothing to deal with except Forrest and the militia. I hope General Smith will make these points more clear to the general-in-chief, to whom he has returned at Nashville, as noted in his report.

My own movement was successful in an eminent degree. We left Vicksburg February 3 in two columns, General Hurlbut's by Messinger's and General McPherson's by the railroad bridge. We met no opposition till General Hurlbut's head of column reached Joe Davis' plantation, and General McPherson's the Champion Hills.

The 5th was one continued skirmish for 18 miles, but we did not allow the enemy's cavalry to impede our march, but got into Jackson that night on his heels, whipping him handsomely and utterly disconcerting his plans. Loring and French were marching at the time to concentrate with the cavalry at Jackson, but were too late. We got into Jackson first, secured their pontoon bridge, repaired it, and commenced crossing Pearl River on the 6th, and on the 7th marched into Brandon.

Next day, the 8th, the head of column reached Line Creek, 5 miles from Morton, and on the 9th we entered Morton, General McPherson leading. I halted him there for the balance of the day to break railroads, and gave General Hurlbut the lead, and he kept it all the way into Meridian. Our march was steady and easy by Hillsborough and Decatur. Though cavalry moved on our flanks they gave us little concern, save in scaring in our stragglers and foraging parties. At the Tallahatta, 20 miles from Meridian, we found the road obstructed with fallen timber, and, satisfied the enemy was trying to save time to cover the removal of railroad property from Meridian, I dropped our trains with good escorts and pushed on over all obstructions straight for the Oktibbeha, where we found the bridge burning. A large cotton gin, however, close by gave us good material, and a couple of hours sufficed for a new bridge, and we entered Meridian at 3.30 p. m. of the 14th with little opposition, and that was soon overcome by a battalion of Colonel Winslow's cavalry fighting on foot.

French's division had gone the night before and Loring's before day that morning, Lee's cavalry covering their retreat. General

Polk had left for Demopolis at 10.30 that morning in the cars. One locomotive and a train were burning as we reached the depot, but all other rolling-stock had been removed to Mobile or toward Selma, 107 miles distant. I knew we could not overtake the enemy before he would cross the Tombigbee, and in fact I was willing to gain our point without battle, at so great a distance from the river, where the care of wounded men would have so taxed our ability to provide for them.

So I rested the army on the 15th, and on the 16th began a systematic and thorough destruction of the railroads centering at Meridian. The immense depots, warehouses, and length of side-track demonstrated the importance to the enemy of that place. Through it he has heretofore transported his armies and vast supplies, and by means of the railroads large amounts of corn, bacon, meal, and produce have been distributed to his armies. For five days 10,000 men worked hard and with a will in that work of destruction, with axes, crowbars, sledges, clawbars, and with fire, and I have no hesitation in pronouncing the work as well done. Meridian, with its depots, store-houses, arsenal, hospitals, offices, hotels, and cantonments no longer exists.

To General Hurlbut I intrusted the destruction north and east of the town, and to General McPherson south and west. The former reports to me officially the destruction of 60 miles of road, with ties burned and iron bent, one locomotive destroyed, and 8 bridges burned. The latter reports officially 55 miles of road destroyed, with 53 bridges and culverts burned, and 6,075 feet of trestle-work below Enterprise across a swamp burned, 19 locomotives, 28 cars, and 3 steam saw-mills destroyed and burned. The railroad is destroyed all the way from Jackson to Meridian, 100 miles; from Meridian to and including the large bridge over the Chickasawha below Quitman; north to and including a bridge at Lauderdale Springs, and east about 20 miles. The enemy cannot use these roads to our prejudice in the coming campaign.

Having learned positively that the enemy's infantry had crossed the Tombigbee eastward on the 17th, and there being nothing between me and the Pearl River but cavalry, which I could not strike with infantry, I remained at Meridian until the 20th of February, leaving me ten days to reach Vicksburg and keep my appointment with General Banks, and hearing nothing whatever of General Smith, I ordered General McPherson to move back slowly on the main road, taking four days to Hillsborough, while I, with General Hurlbut's command and Colonel Winslow's cavalry, moved to the north to feel for General Smith.

On the 20th, I moved from Marion Station toward Muckalusha Old Town, thence to Union, where I dispatched Colonel Winslow with three regiments of cavalry to Philadelphia and Louisville, some 50 miles in the direction of Columbus, over the very road by which General Grierson moved during his celebrated raid, and by which road I supposed he would feel for us. If no tidings could be had of the cavalry, Colonel Winslow was to send a couple of scouts to find General Smith and order him to come to me at Canton, after which Colonel Winslow was to swing across to Kosciusko and come to Canton. The two infantry columns came together as appointed on the 23d at Hillsborough.

Next day we marched for Pearl River on separate roads, making for Ratliff's Ferry. Securing the ferry-boats there and at Edwards'

above, a good floating bridge was constructed by Captain Hickenlooper, of General McPherson's staff, and the army passed Pearl River, 25th and 26th. Leaving a division to cover the bridge in case our cavalry should make its appearance, the army was bivouacked near Canton, where Colonel Winslow had arrived, having executed his orders to the very letter, but with no tidings of General Smith.

No enemy having troubled us during our march from Meridian to Canton, and anxious to afford our Memphis cavalry an opportunity to reach us, I left the army at Canton, rode into Vicksburg on the 28th, received my dispatches from General Banks, as expected, and sent orders back to General Hurlbut to remain there until the 3d of March, and then come into Vicksburg, while I hastened to New Orleans to confer with General Banks and Admiral Porter, and adjust the details of the next combined movement.

I returned to Vicksburg on the 6th instant, found all my army in, and learned that General Smith had not started from Memphis at all till the 11th of February; had only reached West Point, and turned back on the 22d, the march back to Memphis being too rapid for a good effect. Nevertheless, on the whole, we accomplished all I undertook. Our march out and in from Vicksburg was well accomplished; we beat the enemy wherever he opposed or offered resistance. We drove him out of Mississippi, destroyed the only remaining railroads in the State, the only roads by which he could maintain an army in Mississippi threatening to our forces or the main river. We subsisted our army and animals chiefly on his stores, brought away about 400 prisoners and full 5,000 negroes, about 1,000 white refugees, about 3,000 animals (horses, mules, and oxen), and any quantity of wagons and vehicles. Beyond Pearl River we destroyed all C. S. A. cotton and all that was used in the enemy's work at Meridian; also many cotton-gins and piles of cotton were burned by our soldiers and by negroes, without orders and without detection.

I attach little importance to these matters, but the great result attained is the hardihood and confidence imparted to the command, which is now better fitted for war. Animals and men returned to Vicksburg after marching from 360 to 450 miles in the space of the shortest month in the year, in better health and condition than when we started.

Our losses may be summed up as follows:

| Command. | Killed. | Wounded. | Missing. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Hurlbut's | 5 | 21 | 26 | 52 |
| General McPherson's | 7 | 21 | 46 | 74 |
| Cavalry | 9 | 26 | 9 | 44 |
| Aggregate loss of men* | 21 | 68 | 81 | 170 |

We lost some mules and wagons that were out foraging, but the mules were soon replaced by captured animals, so that no delay resulted. I know of no wagons lost save nine, reported verbally by General Hurlbut as having occurred after I came in from Canton.

Contemporaneous with these events was a diversion made on Mobile. I had requested it of General Banks before starting from Vicksburg, and he devolved it on Admiral Farragut. Occurring at the

*But see detailed statement in Addenda, p. 191.

same time as my movement, it completely deceived our enemy, and resulted in an order for the removal of all its non-combatant population and caused great alarm, which seems to have spread through all Alabama. Their time is not yet, but will come in the due order of events.

I also sent at the same time, February 3, up the Yazoo a combined expedition of gun-boats and transports. Knowing that our movement inland would draw off force from the Yazoo, I asked Admiral Porter to send up the Yazoo a fleet of his light-clad boats to explore the Yazoo, Sunflower, and all tributaries where a sufficient draught of water could be found, which he did, viz: Five gun-boats, under command of Lieutenant-Commander Owen, U. S. Navy, and I sent along five transports, with two regiments, one of white, Eleventh Illinois, Colonel Coates, and one of black troops. My instructions for this expedition are submitted herewith. I suppose it fulfilled its objects, although Colonel Coates has not yet returned and reported, but for some reason, which he will explain, after going up as far as Fort Pemberton, he returned and disembarked at Yazoo City, sending his boats to Vicksburg with cotton and forage. He reports officially having sent in 1,521 bales of cotton, and that the gun-boats had secured 207. I have ordered 1,000 bales to be delivered to the Treasury agent, and I ask that its proceeds be applied to indemnify boats that have sustained damage while engaged in a licensed and lawful commerce, such as the Allen Collier, burned by the guerillas at Bolivar Landing, and the Von Phul, fired on at Morganza Bend. The balance of this cotton I have placed with the post quartermaster at Vicksburg, with orders to General McPherson to appoint a board to pay back in kind such loyal persons as Mrs. Grose and Dr. Duncan for cotton used by our hospitals or burned by guerrillas. It is folly for us to attempt to indemnify all, but in this way we can give a support to the smaller claimants and encourage them to cultivate their plantations. The sooner all the cotton in the Southern States is burned or got away the better, for it is the cause of filling our boats and towns with a class of heartless speculators that would corrupt our officers and men and sell their lives by foolish exposure that they might get out stolen cotton and buy it cheap.

The full official reports of Generals Hurlbut and McPherson are not yet in, but as soon as received they will be forwarded, with a map showing our routes of march, &c.

The country is indebted to Generals Hurlbut and McPherson, the actual commanders of the troops in this expedition, whose experience and skill left me an easy task, partaking more of the character of a pleasant excursion than of hard military service.

Colonel Winslow, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, commanded the advance guard, and handled his cavalry brigade with skill and success. His flank attack on the heavy cavalry force of the enemy before Jackson, and his rapid pursuit into Jackson, securing to us the use of the enemy's pontoons, entitles him to promotion as brigadier of cavalry. I must also give him the credit due for his march from Union on Louisville and Kosciusko, and for making his junction with the main body of the army at Canton at the time appointed.

I have thanked in orders the officers and soldiers of the command for their cheerfulness and for their eagerness to fight, to march, or to work day or night as required, but I must leave to corps commanders the duty of recording their individual acts of merit.*

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* For Sherman's congratulatory order see p. 187.

In organizing and conducting this expedition I have been admirably seconded by my personal staff, viz, Major McCoy and Captains Dayton and Audenried. I hardly know how to reward them substantially, further than to commend them to the favorable notice of our Government.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Bingham, my chief quartermaster, the only member of my general staff that I took from department headquarters, I am greatly indebted. Through him were obtained the steamboats and means by which these troops were so rapidly assembled and concentrated at great distances promptly on time.

When Colonel Coates makes me the official report of his operations up the Yazoo, I will indorse it according to my judgment at the time.

Accompanying this I send a complete file of orders and letters of instruction issued during the expedition.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General.*

Brig. Gen. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
*Chief of Staff.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, January* 11, 1864.

Maj. Gen. S. A. HURLBUT,
*Commanding Sixteenth Army Corps:*

SIR: The time is now for the execution of a design long contemplated, which must be improved, else we may lose a step in the natural development of events. You know what I refer to, and therefore I need not repeat it. Everything must give way to the execution of our purpose. You will therefore at once organize out of the Sixteenth Army Corps two strong divisions of infantry, at least 5,000 strong each, with proportionate artillery, and one of cavalry of same strength; in all 15,000 men exclusive of the cavalry force recently arrived under General W. Sooy Smith. To enable you to effect this combination, I hereby direct the force at Paducah to be reduced to three companies, Cairo to seven, Columbus to one white and one negro regiment, Memphis to two black and two white regiments. All the Memphis and Charleston road to be abandoned save so much of it as can be safely held with the remainder of the troops not herein embraced. Abandon Corinth and Fort Pillow absolutely, removing all public property to Cairo or Memphis; also leave all black troops and such of the local Tennessee regiments as can be employed, with minute instructions to the commanders of posts at Paducah, Columbus, Cairo, Memphis, and such others as you judge best to have fixed to organize and arm the loyal citizens for self-defense. Citizens who volunteer to defend their towns, counties, and neighborhoods against the enemy from without or within, should be protected and encouraged in their laudable efforts; and if you will devise a system applicable to West Tennessee and Kentucky and North Mississippi I will ratify and approve it, making it uniform throughout the sphere of this command. Troops held too long in a city like Memphis, or even at a fixed post with barracks, become enervated. I wish, therefore, a general change to take place, and all the men put into camp or bivouac as remote from

towns as possible. The present garrison of Memphis, save the negro regiment, should form the nucleus of one of the infantry divisions named and encamp, say, at Germantown, where they can march inland or into Memphis for embarkation on one day's notice. Make the civil authorities guard their own towns, and hold them responsible that they preserve good order and government. Let the agents of the U. S. Treasury Department manage exclusively all matters of trade and internal intercourse. This is clearly the law of Congress, and if it be wise or unwise it is not for us to say. This will manifest itself in due time, and in the mean time it sets free the hosts of local guards and officers whose time has heretofore been absorbed in civil matters. I expect you to take command of the two divisions of infantry in the field. In assigning and transferring regiments under this order, I advise you to organize Dodge's command into two divisions, adding to his present command say two or three more regiments, which can by him be reported detached. You might send to Dodge one or more brigadiers. Please report to me to-morrow, or next day at furthest, your action under this order, as I will go to Vicksburg and return before we actually move, but all must be complete in ten days at furthest.

I am, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Vicksburg, January* 17, 1864.

Maj. Gen. JAMES B. MCPHERSON,
*Comdg. Seventeenth Army Corps, Vicksburg, Miss.:*

DEAR GENERAL: I have the statement showing the number of troops at the different posts and stations in your command, and am well satisfied with the aggregate. I believe we now have at our disposal here and at Memphis an available force adequate to break the enemy's railroad communication with the State of Mississippi. I mean to break up the railroad at Meridian and as far east as Demopolis. I propose to go back to Memphis, and about the 24th or 25th instant to start a force of cavalry of about 7,000, under command of Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith, to move from La Grange, via Ripley, Pontotoc, and Columbus, down to Meridian, following substantially the Mobile and Ohio Road, breaking it at numerous points. At the same time I will embark two divisions of infantry of the Sixteenth Corps, under Major-General Hurlbut, and hasten to Vicksburg, where they will disembark and march, via Messinger's, Jackson, Brandon, &c., to Meridian, timing our march so as to co-operate with the cavalry. I want you to make up two divisions of infantry, artillery, and cavalry to march at the same time via Big Black bridge, Champion's Hill, Jackson, &c. I will command in person. I will depend on you to provide pontoons and bridge material for crossing General Hurlbut's command at Messinger's, and also a bridge near the old railroad bridge for your own command, so that no delay may occur there. On arrival at Jackson, we can make a bridge over the Pearl out of material there. I want your command to be about 10,000 aggregate, and your artillery to embrace at least two 20-pounder Parrotts and a battery of either 10-pounder Parrotts or 3 inch Rodman guns. We must leave Vicksburg safe in any

contingency and a guard at Big Black and at Haynes' Bluff, and to enable you to do this you can abandon the posts at Skipwith's and Goodrich's. In the present condition of water I do not think the danger of molestation to boats at those points enough to warrant the force now there. On passing Skipwith's I will see Captain Owen, of the Navy, and ask him to send you a light-draught gun-boat to go to Haynes' Bluff, and I wish you to send her up with a couple of transports carrying a couple of regiments to reconnoiter the Yazoo above Yazoo City, and to obtain forage on the Sunflower or on the Yazoo. If the Yazoo be found in a fair stage I will, at the same time with our movement inland, make a feint up that river, it may be, as high as Greenwood. Knowing the objects of the movement, I will rely on your making all the preparations possible between this and the 25th instant, by which time you may expect my return.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, January 27, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM SOOY SMITH,
*Commanding Cavalry, &c., present:*

DEAR GENERAL: By an order issued this day I have placed all the cavalry of this department subject to your command. I estimate you can make a force of full 7,000 men, which I believe to be superior and better in all respects than the combined cavalry which the enemy has in all the State of Mississippi. I will in person start for Vicksburg to-day, and with four divisions of infantry, artillery, and cavalry move out for Jackson, Brandon, and Meridian, aiming to reach the latter place by February 10. General Banks will feign on Pascagoula, and General Logan on Rome. I want you with your cavalry to move from Collierville on Pontotoc and Okolona; thence sweeping down near the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, disable that road as much as possible, consume or destroy the resources of the enemy along that road, break up the connection with Columbus, Miss., and finally reach me at or near Meridian as near the date I have mentioned as possible. This will call for great energy of action on your part, but I believe you are equal to it, and you have the best and most experienced troops in the service, and they will do anything that is possible. General Grierson is with you, and is familiar with the whole country. I will send up from Haynes' Bluff an expedition of gun-boats and transports combined to feel up the Yazoo as far as the present stage of water will permit. This will disconcert the enemy. My movement on Jackson will also divide the enemy, so that by no combination can he reach you with but a part of his force. I wish you to attack any force of cavalry you meet and follow them southward, but in no event be drawn into the forks of the streams that make up the Yazoo nor over into Alabama. Do not let the enemy draw you into minor affairs, but look solely to the greater object, to destroy his communication from Okolona to Meridian and thence eastward to Selma. From Okolona south you will find abundance of forage collected along the railroad, and the farms have standing corn in the fields. Take liberally of all these, as well as horses, mules, cattle, &c. As a rule respect dwellings and families as something too

sacred to be disturbed by soldiers, but mills, barns, sheds, stables, and such like things use for the benefit and convenience of your command. If convenient, send into Columbus and destroy all the machinery there and the bridge across the Tombigbee, which enables the enemy to draw the resources of the east side of the valley, but this is not of sufficient importance to delay your movement. Try and communicate with me by scouts and spies from the time you reach Pontotoc. Avoid any large force of infantry, leaving them to me. We have talked over this matter so much that the above covers all points not provided for in my published orders of to-day.

I am, yours, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 4.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE,
No. 11. } *Memphis, Tenn., January 27*, 1864.

I. Major-General Hurlbut will, with the command recently organized here, proceed with all dispatch to Vicksburg, and move out on the upper Jackson road to the Big Black near Messinger's, and prepare a bridge to cross his command to the east. He will then await the arrival of the general commanding.

II. Major-General McPherson will move his command, as heretofore ordered, to the Big Black railroad bridge, and there prepare to cross to the east. He will leave a covering force at Vicksburg, Haynes' Bluff, and the bridge, and will be prepared to move from Big Black eastward at an hour's notice.

III. The command designated for the field will be lightly equipped —no tents or luggage save what is carried by the officers, men, and horses. Wagons must be reserved for food and ammunition. Cartridge-boxes must be filled full of fresh ammunition, and a hundred rounds extra carried along in wagons or on pack animals. Ten days' meat and bread and thirty days' of salt, sugar, and coffee will be carried in wagons; beef-cattle driven along, and pack animals, at the rate of one per company, when practicable, in lieu of wagons.

IV. Artillery will be cut down one-half, and that double-teamed, and 200 rounds of ammunition for each gun will suffice, but must be carried in caissons belonging to each battery. Artillery carriages must not be loaded down with men and packs, nor must imperfect ammunition be carried along, nor shots wasted at imaginary objects. Chiefs of artillery will see that each box is inspected, and the heavy artillery wagons and forges left at the depots.

V. The expedition is one of celerity, and all things must tend to that. Corps commanders and staff officers will see that our movements are not embarrassed by wheeled vehicles improperly loaded. Not a tent will be carried, from the commander-in-chief down. The sick must be left behind, and the surgeons can find houses and sheds for all hospital purposes.

VI. All cavalry in the department is placed under the orders and command of Brig. Gen. W. S. Smith, who will receive special instructions.

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By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure No. 5.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Vicksburg, Miss., January 30, 1864.*

Major-General MCPHERSON,
*Comdg. Seventeenth Army Corps, Vicksburg:*

GENERAL: Pursuant to my verbal instructions of to-day you have designated the Eleventh Illinois and Eighth Louisiana Regiments to make the expedition up the Yazoo. I wish you would instruct the commanding officer as follows: To act in perfect concert with Captain Owen, U. S. Navy, who acts under my orders by instructions from Admiral Porter. He is instructed simultaneously with our movement inland to explore and scout the Yazoo and Sunflower, to make the planters along those rivers feel that they are to be held responsible for the safety of the navigation of so much of the Mississippi as lays parallel with the Yazoo. Instruct the officer in command to collect a thousand bales of cotton to be delivered to the agents of the U. S. Treasury, to be converted into money with which to indemnify the owners of the steamer Allen Collier, burned in the Mississippi River opposite Bolivar County; for the cotton and gins of Dr. Duncan, recently burned by guerrillas on his plantation near Skipwith's, and other minor depredations on our lawful commerce. Let these boats also collect corn and forage, giving receipts only to the quiet and loyal people, but not to the disloyal. Let the commanding officer impress on the people that we shall periodically visit that country and destroy property or take it, as long as parties of Confederate troops or guerrillas infest the river banks. If, on the contrary, the inhabitants will organize for their own self-defense and for protecting their country from the acts of unfriendly parties, we will gradually open to them a friendly intercourse and trade. All bands of guerrillas or Confederates must be engaged, and if possible punished. This expedition should be up the Yazoo two or three weeks, and should visit every navigable part of the Yazoo and its tributaries as far up as Fort Pemberton, Greenwood, or Sidon. The commanding officer should act in concert with Captain Owen, and if the expedition reaches its destination in a less time than herein indicated, and if an opportunity offers, he may disembark and visit Grenada, or some point on the Central Mississippi Road, breaking it so effectually that it cannot be used by the enemy. Great discretion should be left to the officer in charge, the chief object being to show a force up in those waters while we are occupied in a different quarter, and while General Sooy Smith is sweeping down from Memphis toward Okolona and Meridian. The enemy must not be allowed to flee and seek shelter from this party near the Yazoo.

I am, with respect, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 6.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Vicksburg, January 30, 1864.*

Admiral D. D. PORTER,
*Comdg. Mississippi Squadron, Cairo, Ill.:*

DEAR ADMIRAL: I arrived here last night in the Juliet. I saw Captain Owen in passing Skipwith's, and he was ready to follow to-

day. I have selected two fine regiments in five boats to accompany him, and have ordered Ellet's Marine Brigade to protect the river in the district hitherto guarded by Captain Owen. I will make my letter to Captain Owen very full, asking him to ascend the Yazoo as far as he deems possible, and acting in such a manner as to show the planters along the Yazoo and Sunflower that we can reach them and punish them in case they connive at the attacks on our boats in the Mississippi. I have this moment received a letter from General Banks indicating his purpose to engage in the Red River expedition in concert with General Steele and myself. My orders from General Grant are to strike Meridian, and he sends me a letter from General Halleck which shadows forth the joint execution of the movement on Shreveport. General Banks is sending an officer up to Cairo to engage boats and supplies. He is taking time by the forelock, and I am willing he should do so, but I know when the time comes I will be prepared as soon as any. You must take the initiative, as the gun-boats must carry the heavy ordnance, and we should not engage Shreveport until you can put your gun-boats (iron-clad) into the fight. I can be back to Vicksburg by the end of February, by which time Red River should be in good boating order. I have a man in from Alexandria, La., bringing me messages from my friends there, but he says when he left there eight days ago the falls were only passable to the lightest-draught boats. Dick Taylor is down at Fort De Russy, which is at one of the Marksville landings—doubtless Norman's, the same where the Queen of the West was taken. Taylor has three brigades with him. This fort can be turned by Banks moving upon Alexandria from Opelousas. Steele should move on Shreveport from Little Rock, and you and I should go straight up Red River. Some one mind should control the whole. I inclose you a telegraphic message* for General Grant, which I beg you to send to him and send me his answer. March 1 should be fixed as the date for us to enter Red River.

Truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 7.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Vicksburg, Miss., January* 30, 1864.

Lieut. Commander E. K. OWEN, U. S. Navy,
*Commanding Fifth Division, Mississippi Squadron:*

DEAR SIR: In furtherance of the expedition proposed up the Yazoo, I will endeavor to explain the objects and purposes aimed at:

You are aware that a large cavalry force will leave Memphis about Monday next, directing its course, via Ripley, Pontotoc, Okolona, and Columbus, to Meridian. I will leave Vicksburg about the same time with a strong force of infantry and artillery for the same point via Jackson and Brandon. I desire to confuse the enemy as to our plans, and know that the appearance of a force up the Yazoo as far as possible will tend to that result. I propose at the same time to have the expedition fulfill other important ends. I have ordered General McPherson to embark here on five good steam-boats the Eleventh Illinois Infantry (white) and Eighth Louisiana (black) to accompany your fleet. These will be commanded by an experi-

* See Part II, p. 270.

enced officer (Colonel Coates), who will be instructed to act in perfect concert with you. He will not take artillery, as the gun-boats will have that, and it is not designed he should operate far from your boats. Should you find an enemy at Satartia or Yazoo City, I want them engaged, whether you drive them off or not. The moment they find I have crossed Big Black they will make off. Then pass up the Yazoo as far as possible—to Greenwood; destroy all flats or means used by the enemy to cross from the east to the west; take all C. S. A. cotton you choose as prize, and the transport boats will be ordered to take the private cotton which is abandoned or held by disloyal citizens to barricade their engines and to bring it away to be sold, to make a fund out of which to indemnify the owners of boats that have been destroyed or damaged by the enemy. Impress on the people along Yazoo and Sunflower that we intend to hold them responsible for all acts of hostility to the river commerce. The planters along the Mississippi have been damaged enough, and it is now their turn to feel that war may reach their doors. If the enemy burns cotton we don't care. It is their property and not ours, but so long as they have cotton, corn, horses, or anything, we will appropriate it or destroy it so long as their confederates in war act in violence to us and our lawful commerce. They must be active friends or enemies. They cannot be silent or neutral. I have ordered up the Marine Brigade (General Ellet) to replace your division of light-draught gun-boats. I think now is the time, with almost absolute certainty that the Yazoo will be on the rise, for us to make a good impression on the Yazoo and Sunflower country. If the planters find that we can make a yearly visitation and clean up old scores they will give less encouragement to the enemy, which has heretofore crossed over to the Mississippi and annoyed our steam-boats. They may protest against our holding them responsible for the acts of the Confederate authorities, but in war we have a perfect right to produce results in our own way, and should not scruple too much at the means, provided they are effectual. I would like you to be prepared to explore the Yazoo and Sunflower Rivers perfectly, and think you should take three weeks or a month in the operation. A force of about 3,200 men, under General Hawkins, will occupy Haynes' Bluff, and you can communicate through him with the admiral or myself. Do not hesitate to take any kind of provisions or fire-wood, for the enemy must not only pay for damages inflicted on our commerce but for the expenses incurred in the suppression. You may assure the inhabitants from me that the moment they can assure us that order and peace are preserved along the Yazoo and Mississippi abreast of them they will be allowed free commerce and intercourse with Vicksburg.

I am, with respect, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 8.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 16. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *In the Field, near Decatur, Miss., February* 11, 1864.

I. To expedite our march the following dispositions are ordered to be made during to-morrow, to go into effect the next day, viz, February 13: To each regiment will be allowed two wagons—one for cartridges and one for bread and cooking utensils—and two ambu-

lances. To each general division and brigade headquarters one wagon. All other vehicles will constitute a general train under escort of one regiment to a division and one battery, to be designated by General McPherson.

II. The army, thus relieved of baggage, will further be reduced by all men who are sick and unable to march, who will remain with the wagon train, and will march the next morning early, each regiment followed by its own wagons and ambulances, and colonels of regiments will see that the wagons are helped through bad places in the road. Each man must carry a full proportion of ammunition and provisions for five days (three days' full rations).

III. The wagons and escorts thus detached will follow behind the army as far as Chunky River, and there await further orders. The army itself will move by Decatur directly on Meridian, and General McPherson will send one regiment of his corps from Decatur on the railroad, with instructions to keep abreast of him, and in its progress to destroy bridges, culverts, and track of the railroad at the rate of about 12 miles a day.

IV. The cavalry and mounted officers will carry on their horses the necessary blankets and provisions for the ride, and trust to the country for forage.

V. Captain Hickenlooper, of General McPherson's staff, will organize a strong pioneer and working party, and keep close up to the cavalry advance, repairing bridges and roads, so as to expedite our march.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure No. 9.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 17. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *Meridian, Miss., February* 14, 1864.

I. The destruction of the railroads intersecting at Meridian is of great importance, and should be done most effectually. Every tie and rail of iron for many miles in each direction should be absolutely destroyed or injured, and every bridge and culvert completely destroyed. To insure this end, to General Hurlbut is intrusted the destruction east and north, and to General McPherson the roads west and south. The troops should be impressed with the importance of this work, and also that time is material, and therefore it should be begun at once and prosecuted with all the energy possible. Working parties should be composed of about one-half of the commands, and they should move by regiments, provided with their haversacks and arms, ready to repel attacks of cavalry. The other half, in reserve, will be able to watch the enemy now retreating eastward.

II. Colonel Winslow, commanding cavalry, will keep his cavalry in advance of the party working eastward, and act as though this army was slowly pursuing the enemy.

III. Special instructions will be given as to the general supply train, and the troops now in Meridian will by proper brigade parties collect meal, meat, and supplies. The destruction of buildings must be deferred until the last moment, when a special detail will be made for that purpose.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure No. 10.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 18. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *Meridian, Miss., February* 15, 1864.

The general commanding conveys his congratulations and thanks to the officers and men composing this command for their most successful accomplishment of one of the great problems of the war. Meridian, the great railway center of the Southwest, is now in our possession, and by industry and hard work can be rendered useless to the enemy and deprive him of the chief source of supply to his armies. Secrecy in plan and rapidity of execution accomplish the best results in war, and the general commanding assures all, by following their leaders fearlessly and with confidence, they will in time reap the reward so dear to us all—a peace that will never again be disturbed in our country by a discontented minority.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure No. 11.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 19. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *Meridian, Miss., February* 15, 1864.

I. General McPherson will move one division of his command early to-morrow morning southward, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, with instructions to do as much damage to bridges, culverts, and track of the road and any property of the enemy as possible, including private saw-mills, as far as and including the bridges over Oktibbeha and Chickasawha Creeks, in the neighborhood of Quitman.

II. The officer in command will report back to General McPherson or the general commanding promptly all information gathered respecting the movements of the enemy.

III. Colonel Winslow, commanding cavalry, will send one regiment of his command to accompany this expedition, the senior officer reporting for instructions to the officer in command of the division designated by General McPherson in compliance with this order.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure No. 12.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 20. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *Meridian, Miss., February* 18, 1864.

I. Having fulfilled completely and well all the objects of the expedition, the troops will return to the Mississippi River to embark in another equally important movement.

II. The Sixteenth Army Corps, Major-General Hurlbut's command, and the cavalry commanded by Colonel Winslow, will march from Marion by way of Union and Hillsborough, and the Seventeenth Corps, Major-General McPherson, and the general train from Meridian by Decatur and Hillsborough, each taking four days in reaching Hillsborough. At that point each corps will resume charge of its own train and march by routes to be indicated by the general-in-

chief. The march will begin on the 20th instant, and the corps commanders will not pass Union and Decatur until they have communicated with each other by couriers across at those points.

III. Buildings must not be burned on the return march, save by order of the commanding general of a corps or division, unless they are used as a cover to the enemy from which to fire at our men. Then any commissioned officer may cause them to be destroyed, and report the fact to his division commander.

IV. The march should be conducted slowly (about 15 miles per day) and in good order. Foraging parties must be strong and well commanded. There is no seeming danger, but every precaution should be taken against cavalry dashes at our trains. The wagons should be distributed by brigades along the column, and not kept in a single corps train.

V. The general commanding will accompany General Hurlbut's column, and reports will be made accordingly.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure No. 13.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 21. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *Canton, Miss., February* 26, 1864.

I. The troops composing the expedition will rest at and near Canton until the general commanding can ride to Vicksburg and dispatch back orders for the next movement dependent on the state of affairs since our departure. The following dispositions will be made of the troops:*

1. General Hurlbut will cause the crossing at Big Black to be reconnoitered and boats and materials collected to build a bridge if ordered or needed.

2. The Sixteenth Corps will occupy the space from Canton to the Big Black on the Yazoo City road. The Seventeenth Corps the space from Canton to Pearl River by the road on which we marched.

3. General McPherson will cause the bridge built on the Pearl River by his pioneers to be guarded till the last moment of its utility to us, when it must be destroyed *in toto.*

4. The cavalry will take post to the north and east of Canton, and will picket and scout out daily between Pearl and Big Black Rivers at least 20 miles.

II. Corps commanders will, at the earliest practicable moment, dispatch into Vicksburg, under escort of three or four regiments entitled to furloughs by reason of re-enlistment, all the surplus wagons and captured stock, all sick and wounded men, all prisoners, negroes, and indeed everything that is an impediment or dead weight to the army, retaining only the effective force of soldiers and servants and the necessary transportation for short movements.

III. General Tuttle, commanding at Big Black, will dispatch immediately, under escort of one of his regiments, about 60 wagon loads of hard bread, sugar, salt, and coffee in the proportion of the rations to be divided between the two corps of the army, including the cav-

*A copy of this order was forwarded by Brig. Gen. W. H. Jackson to Maj. Gen. S. D. Lee, March 6.

alry and Tuttle's brigade with the Sixteenth Corps. To produce the equality, this train will come out by Edwards' Depot, Queen's Hill Church, Brownsville, and Livingston.

IV. General Hurlbut will cause a section of about 10 miles of the Mississippi Central Railroad north of and including the bridge over Big Black to be effectually destroyed, and General McPherson will cause a similar break at and south of Canton. General McPherson will also cause the locomotives and cars to be utterly destroyed with powder if necessary.

V. Colonel Winslow will detail a regiment entitled to furlough by reason of re-enlistment to report to the general commanding at 7 a. m. to-morrow, without wagons and with two days' rations, to escort him to Big Black bridge.

VI. Lieutenant Vernay, acting aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. J. B. McPherson, will proceed to Vicksburg, Miss., as bearer of special verbal instructions, and await the arrival of the general-in-chief.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure No. 14.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 22. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *Vicksburg, February* 28, 1864.

I. The army in the field, now at Canton, will remain there till about March 3 to hear from and assist, if necessary, the cavalry expedition under command of Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith, which should have left Memphis February 2 at furthest, but did not until about the 11th. If heard from, General McPherson with his corps will await his arrival, or till he can communicate with him, and order General Smith to the vicinity of Big Black bridge to await further orders, or to act offensively should a cavalry force of the enemy appear this side of Pearl River.

II. General Hurlbut will, about March 3, move his command across Big Black at or near Moore's Bluff, and come to Vicksburg prepared to embark for Red River about March 7 next.

III. Should General McPherson hear of the safety of the cavalry command referred to, or hear no tidings at all of it on or before the 3d next, he also will move down the peninsula between Pearl River and Big Black to the bridge at Messinger's, or at the railroad bridge, and resume his former command at Vicksburg and district.

IV. The chief quartermaster of the department will collect a number of steam-boats suitable for the Red River of a capacity to transport 10,000 men, with artillery, ordnance, and subsistence stores for thirty days' operations, to be ready at Vicksburg by March 7.

V. The commissary of subsistence at Vicksburg will place at Haynes' Bluff three days' rations for General Hurlbut's command of 10,000 men, to be drawn by him on his way down, and the same for General McPherson's command at the Big Black bridge.

VI. The ordnance officer will be prepared to ship on board steamboats, at the date before named, the mortars and 30-pounder Parrotts with all their ammunition on hand, and also a supply of musket ammunition equal to 200 rounds per man for 10,000 men.

VII. Lieutenant Vernay, aide-de-camp to General McPherson, will collect all the mail matter and newspapers he can obtain for the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps, and convey the same to the army at Canton, and Colonel Winslow, chief of cavalry, will furnish him an escort of 200 men, all to start on March 1.

VIII. Col. E. F. Winslow, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, will proceed with the re-enlisted veterans of that regiment to Iowa, and grant furloughs for thirty days after their arrival at Keokuk. At the expiration of the furloughs he will meet them at some rendezvous on the Mississippi River, and reconduct them back to the regiment at or near Vicksburg, Miss.

IX. The quartermaster's department will provide the necessary transportation to and back.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure No. 15.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 24. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *Vicksburg, Miss., March* 6, 1864.

I. General Hurlbut will, out of his First and Third Divisions, make up a command of about 7,500 infantry, with two good batteries of artillery, the whole under command of Brig. Gen. A. J. Smith, to embark on the 7th and 8th instant on board of transports, with thirty days' rations and provided for an expedition up Red River. Only two ambulances per regiment and one for each battery, and one wagon for each headquarters, will be taken along, and the remaining wagons and sick will be left at Vicksburg, to be taken care of until the command returns to Vicksburg.

II. General McPherson will, in like manner, make up a command of about 2,500 men, with one good battery, under a brigadier of rank inferior to that of General A. J. Smith, prepared in like manner to embark on boats on the 7th and 8th instant. The general in command to report in person to General A. J. Smith, who will receive full and minute instructions from the general commanding.

III. Corps commanders will at once order a part of the re-enlisted regiments of their corps to their respective States, where organized, for a furlough of thirty days therein, with full instructions as to procuring additional recruits and rejoining their proper brigades with dispatch on the expiration of their furloughs. The officers and soldiers thus sent on furloughs should be impressed with the importance of their return on time, as military plans can only be based on a positive knowledge of numbers and time.

IV. Brigadier-General Veatch's command will proceed via Cairo and the Tennessee River with all its men, guns, transportation, and materials to join the command of General Dodge at or near Athens, Ala.

V. The chief quartermaster of the department will provide the necessary transportation to carry out these orders and those issued February 28, 1864.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

*ADDENDA.*

## *Return of Casualties in the Union forces.*

[Compiled from nominal lists of casualties, returns, &c.]

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Captured or missing. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS. | | | | | | | |
| Maj. Gen. STEPHEN A. HURLBUT. | | | | | | | |
| THIRD DIVISION. | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. ANDREW J. SMITH. | | | | | | | |
| *First Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. DAVID MOORE. | | | | | | | |
| 58th Illinois | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | ..... | 12 | 14 |
| 119th Illinois | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 89th Indiana | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | 5 | 6 |
| Total First Brigade | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 1 | 20 | 24 |
| *Second Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. WILLIAM T. SHAW. | | | | | | | |
| 14th Iowa | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 19 | 19 |
| 27th Iowa | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | 3 | 4 |
| 32d Iowa | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 | 6 |
| Total Second Brigade | ..... | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... | 27 | 29 |
| *Third Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. EDWARD H. WOLFE.<br>Col. RISDON M. MOORE. | | | | | | | |
| 49th Illinois | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| 117th Illinois | ..... | 1 | ..... | 6 | ..... | 3 | 10 |
| 52d Indiana | ..... | 1 | ..... | 5 | ..... | ..... | 6 |
| 178th New York | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30 | 30 |
| Total Third Brigade | ..... | 2 | ..... | 12 | ..... | 33 | 47 |
| *Artillery.* | | | | | | | |
| Capt. JAMES M. COCKEFAIR. | | | | | | | |
| Indiana Light, 9th Battery | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | 3 |
| Total Third Division | ..... | 4 | ..... | 16 | 1 | 82 | 103 |
| FOURTH DIVISION.[a] | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. JAMES C. VEATCH. | | | | | | | |
| *First Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. MILTON MONTGOMERY. | | | | | | | |
| 35th New Jersey | ..... | 1 | ..... | 4 | ..... | 17 | 22 |
| Total First Brigade | ..... | 1 | ..... | 4 | ..... | 17 | 22 |
| *Second Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. JAMES H. HOWE. | | | | | | | |
| 17th New York (veteran) | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 | 11 |
| 32d Wisconsin | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | 5 | 6 |
| 2d Illinois Light Artillery, Battery D (section) | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Total Second Brigade | ..... | 1 | ..... | 2 | ..... | 15 | 18 |
| Total Fourth Division | ..... | 2 | ..... | 6 | ..... | 32 | 40 |
| Total Sixteenth Army Corps | ..... | 6 | ..... | 22 | 1 | 114 | 143 |

[a] Detachment.

*Return of Casualties in the Union forces*—Continued.

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Captured or missing. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS. | | | | | | | |
| Maj. Gen. JAMES B. MCPHERSON. | | | | | | | |
| FIRST DIVISION. | | | | | | | |
| *Third Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. ALEXANDER CHAMBERS. | | | | | | | |
| 11th Iowa | | | | | | | |
| 13th Iowa | | | | | | | |
| 15th Iowa | | | | | | | |
| 16th Iowa | | | | | | | |
| 1st Missouri Light Artillery, Batteries C and M | | | | | | | |
| Total Third Brigade *a* | | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 13 | 18 |
| THIRD DIVISION. | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. MORTIMER D. LEGGETT. | | | | | | | |
| *Escort.* | | | | | | | |
| 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, Company H | | | | | | | 1 |
| *First Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. MANNING F. FORCE. | | | | | | | |
| 20th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 31st Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 45th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 124th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| Total First Brigade *a* | | | | 7 | | 19 | 26 |
| *Second Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. BENJAMIN F. POTTS. | | | | | | | |
| 20th Ohio | | | | | | | |
| 32d Ohio | | | | | | | |
| 68th Ohio | | | | | | | |
| 78th Ohio | | | | | | | |
| Total Second Brigade *a* | | | | | | | |
| *Third Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. JASPER A. MALTBY. | | | | | | | |
| 8th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 17th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 30th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 7th Missouri | | | | | | | |
| Total Third Brigade *a* | | | | | | | |
| *Artillery.* | | | | | | | |
| Capt. WILLIAM S. WILLIAMS. | | | | | | | |
| 1st Michigan Light, Battery H | | | | | | | |
| Ohio Light, 3d Battery | | | | | | | |
| Total artillery *a* | | | | | | | |
| Total Third Division | | 7 | | 22 | | 46 | 75 |

*a* Losses not reported in detail.

*Return of Casualties in the Union forces*—Continued.

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Captured or missing. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| FOURTH DIVISION. | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. MARCELLUS M. CROCKER | | | | | | | |
| *First Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. THOMAS KILBY SMITH. | | | | | | | |
| 41st Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 53d Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 3d Iowa | | | | | | | |
| 33d Wisconsin | | | | | | | |
| Total First Brigade *a* | | | | | | 28 | 28 |
| *Second Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. CYRUS HALL. | | | | | | | |
| 14th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 15th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 76th Illinois | | | | | | | |
| Total Second Brigade *a* | | | 1 | 4 | | 16 | 21 |
| *Third Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. WALTER Q. GRESHAM. | | | | | | | |
| 32d Illinois | | | | | | | |
| 23d Indiana | | | | | | | |
| 53d Indiana | | | | | | | |
| 12th Wisconsin | | | | | | | |
| Total Third Brigade *a* | | 4 | | 8 | | | 12 |
| *Artillery.* | | | | | | | |
| Capt. JOHN W. POWELL. | | | | | | | |
| 2d Illinois Light, Battery F | | | | | | | |
| Ohio Light, 7th Battery | | | | | | | |
| Ohio Light, 15th Battery | | | | | | | |
| Total artillery *a* | | | | | | | |
| Total Fourth Division | | 4 | 1 | 12 | | 44 | 61 |
| Total Seventeenth Army Corps | | 13 | 1 | 36 | 1 | 103 | 154 |
| CAVALRY. | | | | | | | |
| Col. EDWARD F. WINSLOW. | | | | | | | |
| 5th Illinois | | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | 4 |
| 11th Illinois | | | | 9 | | | 9 |
| 4th Iowa | | | | 2 | | 2 | 4 |
| 10th Missouri | | 8 | | 13 | | 6 | 27 |
| Total cavalry | | 9 | | 26 | | 9 | 44 |
| SMITH'S COLUMN. | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. W. SOOY SMITH. | | | | | | | |
| CAVALRY DIVISION. | | | | | | | |
| Brig. Gen. BENJAMIN H. GRIERSON. | | | | | | | |
| *First Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. GEORGE E. WARING, Jr. | | | | | | | |
| 2d Illinois (5 companies) | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | 5 |
| 7th Indiana | | 11 | 5 | 32 | | 36 | 84 |
| 4th Missouri | | 5 | | 9 | | | 14 |
| 2d New Jersey | | | 4 | 6 | | 2 | 12 |
| 19th Pennsylvania | | | | | | 4 | 4 |
| Total First Brigade | 1 | 17 | 9 | 49 | | 43 | 119 |

*a* Losses not reported in detail.

*Return of Casualties in the Union forces*—Continued.

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Captured or missing. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| *Second Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Lieut. Col. WILLIAM P. HEPBURN. | | | | | | | |
| 6th Illinois | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 | ..... | 5 | 12 |
| 7th Illinois | ..... | 4 | ..... | 15 | ..... | 7 | 26 |
| 9th Illinois | ..... | 1 | ..... | 20 | ..... | 10 | 31 |
| 2d Iowa | 1 | 7 | ..... | 27 | .... | 11 | 46 |
| Total Second Brigade | 1 | 12 | ..... | 69 | ..... | 33 | 115 |
| *Third Brigade.* | | | | | | | |
| Col. LA FAYETTE MCCRILLIS. | | | | | | | |
| 3d Illinois (5 companies) | ..... | 4 | ..... | 1 | ..... | 8 | 13 |
| 72d Indiana (Mounted Infantry) | ..... | 2 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 9 | 26 |
| 5th Kentucky | ..... | ..... | 2 | 3 | ..... | 3 | 8 |
| 2d Tennessee | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | 15 | 16 |
| 3d Tennessee | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 | 5 |
| 4th Tennessee | ..... | 11 | 2 | 16 | ..... | 5 | 34 |
| Total Third Brigade | ..... | 17 | 7 | 32 | 1 | 45 | 102 |
| UNASSIGNED. | | | | | | | |
| 4th United States | ..... | 6 | ..... | 13 | 1 | 32 | 52 |
| Total Smith's column | 2 | 52 | 16 | 163 | 2 | 153 | 388 |
| YAZOO EXPEDITION. | | | | | | | |
| Col. JAMES H. COATES. | | | | | | | |
| 11th Illinois | 1 | 9 | ..... | 40 | ..... | 16 | 66 |
| 8th Louisiana (A. D.) | ..... | 11 | 7 | 59 | ..... | 2 | 79 |
| 1st Mississippi Cavalry (A. D.) | 2 | 8 | 1 | 14 | ..... | 13 | 38 |
| Total Yazoo expedition | 3 | 28 | 8 | 113 | ..... | 31 | 183 |
| Grand total | 5 | 108 | 25 | 360 | 4 | 410 | 912 |

*Officers killed or mortally wounded.*—Lieuts. James K. Catlin, 2d Illinois Cavalry; Hezekiah G. Dwire, 2d Iowa Cavalry; Robert Jehu, 11th Illinois Infantry; Eugene E. Walter, 1st Mississippi Cavalry (A. D.); Archibald Stewart, 1st Mississippi Cavalry (A. D.).

## No. 4.

*Report of Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps, of expedition to Meridian, with itinerary of the corps, January 26–March 10.*

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March 7, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that owing to the non-receipt of full report of the march and operations of the First Division, and the absence of any report from Brig. Gen. A. J. Smith, commanding Third Division, Sixteenth Corps, I am unable to report fully on the late expedition to Meridian, Miss., and beg to offer the follow-

ing approximation of the work performed by my command: Number of miles of railroad destroyed, 60; number of locomotives destroyed, 1; number of bridges burned, 8; bushels corn ground into meal, 2,300; horses captured, 400; mules captured, 750; number of miles marched, 369; prisoners taken from the enemy, 50; prisoners taken by the enemy, 6; missing, 26; killed, 5; wounded, 21; died, 4.

A large train of captured horses, mules, wagons, and oxen was sent into Vicksburg from Canton, Miss., and the command was almost entirely subsisted on the country during the march.

Inclosed please find the report of Brig. Gen. J. C. Veatch, commanding Fourth Division, Sixteenth Corps.

The report of Brig. Gen. A. J. Smith will be sent in as soon as received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
*Major-General, Commanding Sixteenth Corps.*

Capt. L. M. DAYTON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

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*Itinerary of the Sixteenth Army Corps, January 26–March 10.**

The Third Division, Brig. Gen. A. J. Smith, and Twenty-fifth Indiana, Thirty-second Wisconsin, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, Seventeenth New York, and Thirty-fifth New Jersey Volunteers, and Company D, Second Illinois Light Artillery, of the Fourth Division, embarked from Columbus, Ky., and Memphis, Tenn.; disembarked at Vicksburg, Miss., and with part of the Seventeenth Army Corps left Vicksburg on the 3d, marching on Meridian, Miss., via Clinton, Jackson, Brandon, and Hillsborough.

February 14, arrived at Meridian.

February 15 to 18, inclusive, were devoted to the destruction of the railroads and public property of the enemy at Meridian, east some 15 miles and north some 20 miles.

February 20, the troops of this corps marched on return via Marion, on Mobile and Ohio Railroad, through Union and Hillsborough.

February 26, arrived at Canton.

February 27 to 29, remained at Canton, Miss. The Second and Third Brigades, First Division, embarked at Memphis and arrived at Vicksburg too late to join the column, and, by order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, went into camp on Big Black River to cover bridges on Jackson road. The cavalry division of this corps reported directly to Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith, chief of cavalry, Military Division of the Mississippi, during the month of February, and the report of the march and operations of the division with the cavalry expedition into Mississippi was rendered to General Smith. The Second Division and part of the Fourth Division are in the field at and near Pulaski, Tenn.

March 1, the Third Division, Brig. Gen. A. J. Smith commanding, and the Thirty-second Wisconsin, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, Seventeenth New York, Thirty-fifth New Jersey Volunteers, and Company D, Second Illinois Light Artillery, of Fourth Division,

* From monthly returns.

Brig. Gen. J. C. Veatch commanding, struck camp at Canton, Miss., marching on return to Vicksburg.

March 4, took up the Second and Third Brigades, of First Division, from camp on Big Black River and arrived at Vicksburg.

March 10, at Vicksburg the Third Division and Second and Third Brigades of First Division, under command of Brig. Gen. A. J. Smith, embarked on an expedition up Red River against Shreveport. Brig. Gen. J. C. Veatch, with the Thirty-second Wisconsin, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, Seventeenth New York, Thirty-fifth New Jersey Volunteers, and Company D, Second Illinois Light Artillery, embarked at Vicksburg and proceeded via Cairo and Tennessee River to join the Fourth Division at Athens, Ala.

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No. 5.

*Itinerary of the First Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, Brig. Gen. James M. Tuttle, U. S. Army, commanding, February 1–27.**

February 1, the Second and Third Brigades embarked on transports at Memphis, Tenn., and proceeded to Vicksburg, Miss., the First Brigade remaining at Memphis.†

February 2, the troops arrived at Vicksburg at night.

February 3, disembarked in the morning and marched to Black River railroad bridge, where the division went into camp.

February 27, the Second Brigade marched to Canton, Miss.

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No. 6.

*Reports of Col. William L. McMillen, Ninety-fifth Ohio Infantry, commanding First Brigade, of expedition from Memphis to Wyatt, with itinerary of the brigade, February 6–18.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION,
*Dr. Jeter's Plantation, February 9, 1864—7 a. m.*

GENERAL: I reached this point yesterday evening about sundown, having succeeded in crossing the Coldwater without loss of man or wheel. My present position is between Coldwater Depot and Senatobia, on Hickahale Creek. I intend moving to Senatobia to-day (in fact, my advance is already there), and will push on toward Panola as rapidly as I think safe. I hold the crossing at Coldwater and the roads between there and Senatobia, and will continue to do so at least until to-morrow, and longer if I then consider it desirable. My train is too large and gives me trouble and anxiety, although everything so far has worked well and the brigade is in fine condition and spirits.

Inclosed you will find a copy of my latest instructions. If you have any suggestions to offer or orders to give, please forward them by the bearers of this, and, if possible, furnish my couriers with fresh horses. My present impression is that by the time this reaches you, or at furthest to-morrow, we shall have accomplished all that is desirable as a mere demonstration, and I can see no good which can

* From monthly return.
† But see McMillen's reports, following.

possibly result from our remaining in the vicinity of Panola. Either we should move on or return. Our greatest danger is the possibility of the enemy getting in our rear and obstructing the recrossing at the Coldwater. The country on each side is difficult to move over, and a few men could give serious annoyance. We have, however, good men and plenty of dry powder, and under any circumstances the brigade will do its former commander no discredit.

I drink your good health, general, and will be glad to hear from you by the returning courier.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. McMILLEN,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. P. BUCKLAND,
*Commanding District of Memphis.*

P. S.—My information is that General Sherman entered Jackson on Friday evening last at 7 o'clock, the enemy crossing the Pearl River. Can hear nothing of a force at or near Greenwood. Rebel troops are reported moving toward Grenada. Forrest was at Oxford last Friday.

[Inclosure.]

IN THE FIELD,
*Memphis, Tenn., February* 6, 1864.

Colonel McMILLEN,
*Commanding Brigade:*

SIR: I send the effective portion of the First Alabama Cavalry to report to you for duty. You can use them for scouting thoroughly on your flanks and as couriers to communicate with me or with General Buckland. Our information makes it almost certain that the rebels have fallen back of the Tallahatchie. One of our brigades is up the Yazoo, probably as far as Greenwood, and this may account for their retrograde movement. We have been delayed awaiting Waring's brigade from Columbus, and shall not cross the Coldwater before Monday. As your movement is designed to attract their attention be as demonstrative as you can. If I should not be able to communicate with you again move to the vicinity of Panola if you can, improving any opportunity you may have to cross over even, if you think it advisable. Communicate with General Buckland here, and with me at Collierville, if anything important transpires. I am informed from Vicksburg that General Sherman started toward Jackson on Thursday last. If you find it desirable to hold on in the neighborhood of Panola you can send back for supplies and your pontoons, if you desire them.

Yours, truly,

W. SOOY SMITH,
*Brigadier-General, Chief of Cavalry, Mil. Div. of the Miss.*

—

CAMP AT BOWEN'S, 2 MILES SOUTH OF CHULAHOMA,
*February* 12, 1864—9 p. m.

GENERAL: I received a copy of your telegram on the 9th instant to General Buckland night before last, and left the vicinity of Senatobia the next day about noon, reaching this point on the road to

Wyatt this evening. There was a force of cavalry (reported a brigade) under McCulloch between Senatobia and Panola, and with whom I had a sharp skirmish at the former place. Could not learn definitely what force Chalmers has at Panola, but heard that he was fortifying and being re-enforced. Think they have all the crossings between Panola and Wyatt guarded, and am told by citizens in this vicinity that there is at least a brigade on the other side of the river at Wyatt. I will move down there in the morning and await your orders. Have not seen or heard of any considerable force except the one above mentioned between Coldwater and Tallahatchie. Forrest has proclaimed his intention to stand his ground on the other side of the Tallahatchie, so the people say. His force is generally estimated at from 7,000 to 12,000. I sent the larger portion of my train back to Memphis. Have four days' bread and ten days' groceries on hand.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. L. McMILLEN,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM S. SMITH,
*Chief of Cavalry.*

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HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., FIRST DIV., 16TH ARMY CORPS,
*Camp at Vick's Plantation, February* 14, 1864—6 a. m.

GENERAL: I reached this place, 12 miles south of Quinn's Mill, last evening, and will push on to the mill to-day, at or near which I expect to cross the Coldwater, camping to-night in the vicinity of Collierville. I have less than one-half rations of hard bread for to-day and to-morrow only; no meat, except such as I can find in the country. We have plenty of coffee, sugar, and salt. Can't you send Captain Mallory, who went back with 100 good men, to meet us with supplies, either with a train of cars or wagons? I would like to-morrow evening, at or near Germantown, two days' rations of bread and meat for the whole command, say 1,650 men. Please let me know by this courier if I may have this assistance, and be kind enough to send us newspapers.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. L. McMILLEN,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. P. BUCKLAND,
*Commanding District of Memphis.*

P. S.—I find no traces of the enemy in force this side of the Tallahatchie.

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*Itinerary of the First Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, Col. William L. McMillen, Ninety-fifth Ohio Infantry, commanding, February* 6–18.*

February 6, the brigade broke camp in the morning, and moved southward on the Hernando road.

February 7, bivouacked at night in the village of Hernando.

* From monthly return.

February 8, moved toward the Coldwater. Having had three companies of cavalry, averaging about 30 each, assigned to the command, a small force was sent in the advance. They met a small rebel picket force at the Coldwater Ferry, and succeeded in driving them back and secured the ferry-boat, which enabled the command to cross the stream. Bivouacked that night 1½ miles south of the Coldwater Depot.

The next morning moved on the Senatobia road about 2 miles out; reached the Hickahale stream. The cavalry advanced, and one regiment of infantry was thrown across the bridge. One company of cavalry and two companies of infantry were sent to Senatobia to secure and hold the town. In attempting to cross the artillery the bridge began to give way, and the rest of the day was spent in repairing it. In the mean time the advance had reached Senatobia and drove the enemy from town, and awaited the approach of the column. About 3 p. m. the rebels made several attempts to charge on them, but were successfully repulsed each time. At night the column withdrew to a good camping-ground about 2 miles to the rear.

February 9, reconnaissances were made, and the command put in readiness to advance the day following toward Panola. During the day considerable skirmishing was had with the enemy. At 8 p. m. a dispatch was received from Brig. Gen. W. S. Smith, commanding cavalry expedition, for the command to join him at Wyatt, on the Tallahatchie.

February 10, three bridges were destroyed on the Hickahale after a sharp skirmish, also the Coldwater Ferry, and the command started for Wyatt, which place they reached on the morning of the 13th. The enemy had destroyed the bridge, and were strongly posted on the opposite bank. Constant skirmishing was kept up until dark, but we succeeded in driving them from the river. That night orders were received to meet General Smith at Waterford.

February 14, in the morning, moved to Waterford. About 4 p. m. dispatches were received that General Smith had effected a crossing at New Albany.

February 15, the command about-faced and started for Memphis.

February 18, reached Memphis at night, the object of the expedition having been accomplished, viz, to divert the attention of Forrest, Chalmers, and Lee, and allow General Smith to effect a crossing on the Tallahatchie.

Subsequent reports from Brigadier-General Smith, commanding cavalry expedition, state that this command rendered him important service, and too much credit cannot be given to the officers and men of this command for their energy and perseverance on this expedition. Starting out with only eight days' rations, it subsisted them thirteen. A portion of the road was almost impassable, but the men went cheerfully to work building bridges, cutting out new roads, and doing everything in their power to forward the movement, and the interest manifested shows that where such troops are serving victory is certain.

No. 7.

*Return of Casualties in the Third Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Smith, U. S. Army, commanding, February 3–March 4.*

| Command. | Killed. | Wounded. | Captured or missing. | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| First Brigade: | | | | |
| 58th Illinois | | 2 | 12 | 14 |
| 119th Illinois | | | 4 | 4 |
| 89th Indiana | | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Second Brigade: | | | | |
| 14th Iowa | | | 19 | 19 |
| 27th Iowa | | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 32d Iowa | 1 | | 5 | 6 |
| Third Brigade: | | | | |
| 49th Illinois | | 1 | | 1 |
| 117th Illinois | 1 | 6 | 3 | 10 |
| 52d Indiana | 1 | 5 | | 6 |
| 178th New York | | | 30 | 30 |
| 9th Indiana Battery | 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 4 | 16 | 83 | 103 |

J. HOUGH,
*Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 8.

*Itinerary of the First Brigade, Third Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, Col. David Moore, Twenty-first Missouri Infantry, commanding, February 2–27.**

February 2, command left camp in rear of Vicksburg en route for Meridian, Miss.

February 4, the command engaged the enemy on the plantations of Jefferson and Joseph Davis, driving them with the skirmish line. Loss during the engagement: Killed, —; wounded, —; missing,—. Encamped at sunset.

Nothing worthy of note occurred during the march to Meridian, at which place the command was assigned to the duty of destroying the Selma railroad, which was most effectually done a distance of 6 miles. After remaining at Meridian in camp two days the command moved en route for Canton, Miss., via Union and Hillsborough.

February 27, arrived at Canton, Miss., at 2 p. m., at which place the command is still encamped, with headquarters at the house of one Dr. Reid.

No. 9.

*Itinerary of the Second Brigade, Third Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, Col. William T. Shaw, Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, commanding, February 3–March 4.**

February 3, this brigade left Vicksburg with the Sixteenth Army Corps in the expedition commanded by Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman,

* From monthly return.

and marched by way of Jackson and Hillsborough to Meridian, Miss., and there aided in destroying the railroad for three days.

February 20, it commenced the return march by way of Union and Canton, destroying railroad at the latter place for two days, and arrived at camp in rear of Vicksburg March 4.

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No. 10.

*Report of Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, of expedition to Meridian.*

Sailed from Memphis on board steam-boats Commercial, Emma, Kenton, and Mars, 7 a. m., 31st January, 1864. Arrived at Helena, Ark., 6 p. m. same day. Found the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Infantry preparing to move on board steamer Choteau, then lying at the landing. Furnished Colonel Montgomery, the commanding officer, with orders received from department headquarters, and issued Special Orders, No. 2, requiring him to embark as soon as possible, and sail with the fleet in the morning. At 10 o'clock the same evening the fleet sailed, leaving the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin to follow.

Landed at Vicksburg 2 a. m., February 2, 1864, and went into camp 6 miles from the city.

February 3, marched at 2 p. m., and camped on Clear Creek; roads good; distance 4 miles.

February 4, marched at 5.30 a. m.; halted on the east side of Big Black River 10 a. m. The Second Brigade marched on to the church at forks of the road, and camped at 4 a. m. of the 5th. First Brigade and train, arriving 12 m., marched at 1 o'clock from the church, and went into camp in an old field at 5 p. m.; distance from Big Black to the church, 8 miles; from church to camp, 10 miles; total distance from Black River, 18 miles.

February 6, marched at 5 a. m. and went into camp 10 a. m. 4 miles west of Jackson. Distance of day's march, 8 miles.

February 7, crossed Pearl River at 4 p. m. (First Brigade ordered to remain and destroy pontoon bridge across Pearl River), and camped 2 miles west of Brandon 12 o'clock at night; trains in the road. Distance of day's march, 14 miles.

February 8, marched at 11 a. m.; halted at Brandon 12 m.; resumed the march at 2 p. m., and camped 10 p. m. at the railroad. Distance of day's march, 10 miles.

February 9, marched at 5.30 a. m.; halted at Morris' Mills on Line Creek, 13½ miles from last night's camp, at 12 m.; at 1 o'clock resumed the march, and passed through Morton 4 p. m., and there received orders from Major-General Sherman to march to Shockalo Creek, at which place we went into camp at 9 p. m. Distance of day's march, 23 miles.

February 10, marched from Shockalo Creek at 6 a. m; the cavalry commenced skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry 1 mile from camp; arrived at Hillsborough, county seat of Scott County, at 9 a. m., 5 miles from last night's camp; marched through Hillsborough and crossed Talla Bogue Creek, 3 miles east of Hillsborough, 12 m.; went into camp at 2 p. m. Distance of day's march, 8 miles.

February 11, marched from Talla Bogue Creek at 6 a. m.; crossed Anticola Creek, 4 miles from Talla Bogue; Tuscalameta, 4 miles from Anticola; Bollabusha, 1½ miles from Tuscalameta; Coonahatta, 4 miles from Bollabusha; camped on the Coonahatta at 5 p. m. Distance of day's march, 13 miles.

February 12, marched in rear of the Third Division at 8 a. m.; passed through [Decatur], 9 miles, at 12 m.; found the town on fire; placed the cavalry escort on guard in the town, and marched the division through 1 mile beyond the city. The corps train was fired upon by rebel cavalry; were instantly repulsed, doing no damage. They, however, swept around and attacked that portion of the train under charge of the Third Division; reached camp at 8 p. m., 6 miles beyond Decatur, on Little Chunky River. Distance of day's march, 15 miles.

February 13, marched from Little Chunky River 11.30 a. m.; crossed Tallisha Creek, 4 miles from Little Chunky, at 2 p. m.; crossed Tallahatta, 4 miles from Tallisha, at 6 p. m.; camped on the Bogue Filliah, 1 mile from Tallahatta, at 8 p. m. Distance of day's march, 9 miles.

February 14, marched from Bogue Filliah at 6.30 a. m.; crossed the Oktibbeha Creek and the ——— Creek; camped at Meridian 5 p. m. Distance of day's march, 15 miles.

February 15, remained in camp at Meridian all day.

February 16, marched to Marion Station, burning as much of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad as possible.

February 17, remained in camp; troops burning railroad.

February 18, remained in camp during day, burning railroad and grinding breadstuff for the command.

February 19, sent two regiments to Lauderdale Springs, in compliance with letter received from Major-General Hurlbut; the regiments to destroy railroad, and, if possible, burn the station of Lauderdale Springs, returning the same day, having burned culverts, bridges, and part of the railroad as far as Lockhart's Station.

February 20, in compliance with Major-General Sherman's Special Field Orders, No. 20, marched at daylight, taking the advance of the column; crossed Bail's Creek, 13 miles from Marion, on the Louisville road; a large plantation on the west side belonging to Mr. Holliday; crossed the Chickasawha 3 miles beyond, and went into camp at the junction of the Chickasawha and Pinder Creeks at 5 o'clock. Distance of day's march, 16½ miles.

February 21, marched at daylight, crossed the Oktibbeha, 2 miles from camp; during the morning marched across a number of small streams, said by the people to be dry during the summer season; 10 miles from the Oktibbeha came the old Choctaw village grounds called ———, and near it, on the right side of the road, the plantation of James Wilson; 9 miles farther reached the town of Union, consisting of one house; found the enemy's cavalry fighting the guard to the train sent from Decatur. Distance of the day's march, 21 miles.

February 22, marched from one-half mile east of Union at 6.30 a. m.; reached camp on the Bogue Filliah, 1.30 p. m. Distance of day's march, 13 miles.

February 23, marched from the Bogue Filliah Creek at daylight; reached the Tuscalameta Creek, 3 miles, at sunrise; found the swamp one-quarter of a mile on each side of the creek in bad condition and causewayed; crossed the Anticola 2 miles farther; Talla

Bogue Creek 4 miles farther : camped 3 miles beyond, one-half mile east of Hillsborough. Distance of day's march, 12½ miles.

February 24, marched from Hillsborough 9.30 a. m., Third Division in the advance ; crossed the Shockalo Creek on the Canton road, 2½ miles ; 2 miles farther crossed Haly's Creek ; went into camp 7½ miles beyond at 5 p. m. Distance of day's march, 12 miles.

February 25, marched at daylight, Third Division in the advance ; marched 2 miles, and found the rear of the Third Division still in camp ; marched slowly in rear of the Third Division ; halted for dinner on the Coffee Bogue Creek ; the pontoon bridge broke ; and went into camp 2 miles beyond Coffee Bogue. Distance of the day's march, 7 miles.

February 26, the head of column crossed the Pearl River at 11.30 o'clock ; the rear of the division crossed at 1 o'clock ; camped 1½ miles north of Canton at 7 p. m. Distance of day's march, 13 miles.

February 27, remained in camp during the day, the Thirty-second Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry burning the Mississippi Central Railroad, 1 mile west of the town ; grinding corn meal at the rate of 40 pounds per hour. The Twenty-fifth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry veteranized, and marched as escort to wagon train to Vicksburg, in obedience to Special Field Orders, No. 9, headquarters Sixteenth Army Corps.

February 28, remained in camp during the day.

February 29, remained in camp. The command mustered. Thirty-second Wisconsin tearing up the track of the railroad in the afternoon. Received hard bread, and orders to march the next day ; also ordering General Mower's brigade to march with Fourth Division.

March 1, marched at 9 o'clock in the rear of the Third Division ; closed on General Smith's column at 11 o'clock ; halted for his train to cross the flat ; while halted a party of foragers were driven in by the enemy's cavalry ; sent the escort of cavalry, 33 in number ; the officer in command soon reported two or more regiments of rebel cavalry. Orders were sent to Colonel Howe to throw out skirmishers and push forward the train ; the skirmishers to remain until General Mower should show his heavy column. Colonel Howe, finding the enemy in line of battle, threw out two regiments of infantry, driving the enemy off on the Jackson road, and causing a delay of two hours. As soon as recalled the column moved forward, camping in Livingston at dark, Howe's train being across the creek and parked with Cooper's battery in the town ; General Mower's camped on the creek east of the town, it being impossible to cross the creek bottom in the night. Weather freezing. Distance of day's march, 12 miles. Troops suffering.

March 2, marched from Livingston at daylight, Third Division in the advance. Two miles from Bogue Chitto came up with the rear of Third Division, 11 a. m., General Smith having been halted to build bridge ; crossed Bogue Chitto, the head of the division reaching the bridge at 6 p. m. ; camped 3 miles beyond Bogue Chitto, the rear of the column (Mower's brigade) reaching camp at 11 p. m. Distance of day's march from Livingston to Bogue Chitto to camp, 3 miles ; total distance, 12 miles.

March 3, marched at daylight, Fourth Division in advance, General Mower's brigade taking the advance of the division ; passed through Brownsville, 4 miles, and halted at Queen's Hill Church at 10 o'clock, 6 miles ; crossed Big Black River, 8 miles. The rear of

the division and train crossed at 20 minutes before 5 o'clock. Camped on Sycamore Creek, 1½ miles. Distance of day's march, 9½ miles.

March 4, marched at daylight, and reached camp at 12.30 p. m., camping north of Fort Hill, near Vicksburg. Distance of day's march, 16 miles.

[J. C. VEATCH,
*Brigadier-General.*]

[Inclosure No. 1.]

*Casualties of Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, Department of the Tennessee.*

| Command. | Killed. | Wounded. | Died. | Prisoners. | Missing. | Total. | Animals lost. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Horses. | Mules. |
| 25th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | 2 | ..... | ..... |
| 35th Regiment New Jersey Volunteer Infantry | 1 | 4 | ..... | 5 | 12 | 22 | ..... | ..... |
| 32d Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry | ..... | 1 | 2 | ..... | 5 | 8 | ..... | ..... |
| 17th Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry | 1 | ..... | 1 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 2 |
| Second Illinois Light Artillery, Battery D | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 3 | ..... |
| 25th Indiana Volunteer Infantry *a* | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Division train | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 33 |
| Total | 3 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 45 | 6 | 35 |

*a* Marched on 27th to Indianapolis. No report.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

*Number of miles of railroad destroyed by the troops of the Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

February 16, 17, and 18, destroyed 6 miles of railroad on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, from Meridian to Marion Station, tearing up the entire track, burning the ties. The iron placed on top of the burning ties was rendered useless.

February 19, the Second Brigade, under command of Col. James H. Howe, marched to Lockhart's Station, 7 miles north of Marion Station, destroying the Lockhart's Station depot building, burning all bridges and culverts, and tearing up the tracks in several important cuts. The entire amount of track torn up and destroyed between Lockhart's and Marion, estimated at 3 miles, making in all 9 miles of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad entirely destroyed by the troops of this command.

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## No. 11.

*Report of Col. Milton Montgomery, Twenty-Fifth Wisconsin Infantry, commanding First Brigade, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. 1ST BRIG., 4TH DIV., SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Near Vicksburg, Miss., March 5, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the First Brigade, Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, was organized at Clear Creek, Miss., by virtue of special orders from headquarters Fourth Division, Six-

teenth Army Corps, dated February 3, 1864. It was composed of the following regiments, viz: Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Volunteers, Thirty-fifth New Jersey Volunteers, and Thirty-third Missouri Volunteers.

On the morning of the 7th of February, the Thirty-third Missouri Volunteers was detached and ordered back as an escort for the pontoon train. The brigade accompanied the expedition to Meridian and Marion, and thence, via Union, Hillsborough, and Canton, returned to Vicksburg, which they reached at 1 p. m. of the 4th instant. They were at no time engaged with the enemy, but on the 12th of February the rear of the brigade, when near Decatur, was fired into, no harm being done. A short time after one regiment (the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Volunteers) was sent back about 1 mile, and formed line and threw out a company of skirmishers to protect the train, which had been attacked while crossing Turkey Creek, on the outskirts of Decatur.

On the afternoon of the 16th, the brigade moved up from Meridian to Marion, a distance of at least 5 miles, in 1 hour and 10 minutes, to support Colonel Howe, who was engaged with the enemy, but arrived after all was quiet.

On the 25th, the brigade, being then in the extreme rear, was fired into several times by guerrillas about 5 miles east of Pearl River.

Starting from Canton March 1, 1864, when we had advanced about 7 miles the Thirty-fifth New Jersey Volunteers were thrown out to support the Thirty-second Wisconsin Volunteers, which had formed a skirmish line for the purpose of protecting our train.

Hereto is annexed a list of casualties.*

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. MONTGOMERY,
*Colonel 25th Wisconsin Vols., Comdg. Brigade.*

Capt. F. W. FOX,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., 4th Div., 16th Army Corps.*

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No. 12.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Jeremiah M. Rusk, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. TWENTY-FIFTH WISCONSIN INFANTRY VOLS.,
*Near Vicksburg, Miss., March* 4, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to forward to you the following concise report of our regiment on the late expedition to Meridian, Miss., in which we took part:

On the 1st of February last the regiment embarked on board the steamer H. Choteau, with orders to report at Vicksburg, Miss., where we arrived at 8 p. m. on the 2d. Here we were ordered to store all surplus property pertaining to the regiment, taking nothing with us but what could be carried by officers and men.

February 3, the troops belonging to the Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, to which we were assigned, under command of

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 191.

General Veatch, consisting of six regiments, were organized in two brigades, Col. M. Montgomery taking command of the First Brigade, and Colonel Howe, of the Thirty-second Wisconsin, taking command of the Second Brigade, since which time I have been in command of the regiment.

We proceeded in line of march for parts then unknown, crossed Big Black River on pontoons, and reached Jackson on the 7th; passed through Brandon, Hillsborough, Decatur, Little Chunky, and other places of less note, and reached Meridian, Miss., on the 14th and camped near the railroad.

Here we remained until the 16th, when we received orders to move to Marion, 5 miles distant, to support the Second Brigade, who were there fighting. On our arrival fighting had ceased, and the enemy routed. Here we remained till the 20th, tearing up railroad, destroying bridges, culverts, &c., and doing picket duty, grinding corn, foraging, capturing horses and mules.

Having fulfilled entirely and well the object of the expedition, we were ordered to return to the Mississippi River to embark in an equally important movement by the way of Union, Hillsborough, and Canton, where we encamped on the 26th, and where we remained till March 1, during which time we foraged and were on picket duty.

We then proceeded to Vicksburg by way of Livingston, Brownsville, crossed Big Black River, reaching Vicksburg the 4th of March.

The whole distance marched with expedition was near 400 miles in thirty-one days. During most of the time we were on half rations, but foraged for the other half, and did not suffer much except for the want of bread.

During this hazardous expedition in entering the heart of the enemy's country we have been peculiarly fortunate as a regiment, having lost not a man by straggling or neglect when men have fallen out of line through fatigue, while other regiments have lost men, as their reports will show, I believe from these causes. Our means of transportation were very limited, restricted to 2 army wagons and 2 ambulances, and reserved for forage and ammunition.

Many thanks are due the officers for their vigilance all along the route, and the men generally appreciated the care and efforts made in their behalf and obeyed the orders to the letter, published from time to time to the regiment.

From the time we crossed Big Black River until we recrossed it was one continued skirmish, the rebels watching for opportunities to harass us, laying heavy timber in impassable places, burning bridges, &c.

On the 12th of February, our regiment and train were fired into from the woods while passing, but no damage done. We halted and formed line of battle, sent out skirmishers to scour the woods, but the rebels had fled.

The casualties incident to our regiment since we left Helena, Ark., on the 1st Feburary, are as follows: Private James Lick, Company C, while watering ambulance horses on board the H. Choteau, accidentally fell overboard and was lost in the Mississippi River on the 2d of February. Private George W. Louthain, Company I, shot by accidental discharge of his gun while falling in company for line of march at Little Chunky Creek, Mississippi, on the 13th of Feburary. Private John W. Bayse, Company B, died of typhoid fever at Decatur, Miss., on the 21st of February. At the time of his death was

with division teams. The above 3 men were universally respected in their companies, and by all in the regiment who knew them. The service has lost in these men energetic, prompt, and good soldiers.

Respectfully submitted.

J. M. RUSK,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding the Regiment.*

His Excellency JAMES T. LEWIS,
*Governor State of Wisconsin.*

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No. 13.

*Itinerary of the Second Brigade, Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, Col. James H. Howe, Thirty-second Wisconsin Infantry, commanding, February 3–March 31.**

February 3, this brigade was organized and composed of the Thirty-second Wisconsin, Twenty-fifth Indiana, Seventeenth New York Veteran Volunteers, and Battery D, Second Illinois Light Artillery.

February 4, marched toward Jackson, Miss.

February 7, arrived at Jackson. Occupied the place as rear-guard of the Sixteenth Army Corps until army all passed; then destroyed the enemy's pontoon bridge, over which the army had crossed, and by a night march overtook the main body on the 8th.

February 8, marched through Brandon, Morton, and Hillsborough to Decatur.

February 12, had just passed through Decatur when the enemy's cavalry attacked train of Smith's division; were handsomely repulsed by the Twenty-fifth Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Rheinlander, without loss.

February 14, marched into Meridian, Miss.

February 15, marched up the Mobile and Ohio Railroad toward Marion, entirely destroying the road as we moved up. The advance guard, three companies of the Twenty-fifth Indiana, under Lieutenant-Colonel Rheinlander, was fired upon by the enemy's cavalry from the town of Marion in some force. Two companies of the Twenty-fifth Indiana and three companies of the Thirty-second Wisconsin, with battery, were ordered up. The enemy were driven out of town rapidly, with loss of 4 killed and a number wounded, and the town was occupied. Remained in Marion until the 19th, when the Thirty-second Wisconsin and Twenty-fifth Indiana, under command of Colonel Howe, marched 2 miles beyond Lockhart's Station, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, destroying all bridges and culverts, the station building, lumber, and the large hospital buildings of the enemy; returned at night.

February 20, marched toward Vicksburg; passed through Union and Hillsborough.

February 26, arrived at Canton; remained in camp at that place until March 1.

March 1, brigade broke camp.

March 3, crossed the Big Black River.

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* From monthly returns.

March 4, arrived in Vicksburg and remained in camp until the 9th, between which time and the 14th the brigade was moved by regiments and detachments on transports to Memphis, Tenn. Went into camp at Hopefield, Ark.; remained until the 17th, between which time and the 22d the brigade was moved by regiments on transports to Cairo, Ill.

March 22, the brigade moved on transports to Columbus, Ky., and took railroad to Moscow, Ky., to repel an expected attack from General Forrest; found him gone, and returned to Columbus same night.

March 23, returned to Cairo.

March 25, at night, the Thirty-second Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, under command of Col. James H. Howe, embarked on transports and proceeded to Paducah, Ky., to repel an attack made on that place by General Forrest.

March 26, arrived at Paducah early in the morning. Forrest had left when the regiment arrived. The balance of the brigade took transports in the afternoon and proceeded up the Ohio River; were joined by the Thirty-second Wisconsin, and the whole brigade proceeded up the Tennessee River, under orders to join the command of General Dodge at Athens, Ala.

March 29, arrived at Athens in the afternoon.

March 30, moved to Purdy to intercept General Forrest in his anticipated return through that place.

March 31, in the afternoon marched back to Athens and embarked on transports.

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## No. 14.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps, of expedition to Meridian and operations on Yazoo River, with itinerary of the corps, February 3–March 18.*

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March 8, 1864.*

GENERAL: I have the satisfaction of reporting to you that Colonel Coates, in command of our forces, repulsed the enemy (two brigades, Ross' and Richardson's) at Yazoo City, on Saturday, the 5th instant, after a desperate conflict, which lasted from 10 a. m. till 4 p. m. The battle, part of the time, was a regular hand-to-hand fight through the streets.

Colonel Coates' loss was 19 killed, 89 wounded, and 18 missing. The enemy's loss was much greater, and among his killed was a major and a lieutenant belonging to Richardson's command.

Colonel Coates held possession of Yazoo City all day Sunday, and embarked his command Sunday evening and is on his way down. I am expecting him here to-day, when I will write you a full report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
*Major-General.*

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March* 16, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command during the recent expedition into the interior of Mississippi:

In accordance with instructions from the major-general commanding, the Third Division, Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett commanding; the Fourth Division, Brig. Gen. M. M. Crocker commanding; the Third Brigade, First Division, Brig. Gen. Alexander Chambers commanding, and the Cavalry Brigade, Col. E. F. Winslow commanding, were directed to hold themselves in readiness to march about the 1st of February. Pontoons were prepared, and the train fitted up under the direction of Captain Kossak, aide-de-camp and engineer officer, for the construction of a bridge at Messinger's Ferry, on the Big Black, for the passage of Major-General Hurlbut's command, and a floating bridge near the railroad bridge on the main Jackson road, for the passage of my own command. The latter was constructed by Brigadier-General Force's brigade, under the supervision of Capt. A. Hickenlooper, chief engineer of the corps.

On the 3d, the different divisions and brigades were assembled at this point by 12 m. The cavalry was immediately ordered across, with directions to push forward rapidly and secure the bridge across Baker's Creek, near Champion's Hill, which was done, the main portion of the command following, and bivouacking for the night in the vicinity of Edwards' Depot.

At an early hour the next morning, the 4th, the command was in motion, the infantry and artillery following the main road to Clinton, and the cavalry, as instructed, keeping well out on the right flank. At Champion's Hill the first resistance was met with, where we encountered Colonel Starke's brigade of cavalry, with two pieces of artillery. Two regiments of Crocker's division were immediately deployed, a heavy line of skirmishers thrown to the front, and the whole command ordered forward, driving the enemy easily and steadily over a very broken country, with little loss on our side. The retrograde movements of the enemy were accelerated by the vigorous operations of Winslow's cavalry on their flanks; by dark they were driven hurriedly across the creek east of Bolton, the bridge saved, and my command bivouacked near the junction of the Clinton, Bolton, and Raymond roads.

During the night Starke's brigade was joined by Ferguson's from Okolona, and Maj. Gen. S. D. Lee assumed command in the field. The enemy occupied a good position on the hills on the east side of the creek, and everything indicated that they intended to contest the ground stubbornly.

As soon as it was light enough to see on the morning of the 5th, the command was put in motion, Leggett's division in advance. Two brigades of this division were deployed and ordered to advance in line of battle under cover of artillery fire from two 20-pounder and two 10-pounder Parrotts. The enemy soon gave way, and were pushed so rapidly and persistently by these two brigades into and through Clinton that the march of the main column was not checked. The cavalry of Winslow, operating on their flank, entered Clinton by the Raymond road just as the advance of our infantry was coming in on the Jackson road and the rear of the enemy going out eastward.

At Clinton I received instructions from the major-general commanding to bear to the south, and, if possible, get into a plantation road which entered Jackson between the Clinton and Jackson and Raymond and Jackson roads, while Major-General Hurlbut's command would follow the main Clinton and Jackson road. After bearing off across the fields about 2½ miles, the road was reached with the advance of the infantry, and came up with the rear of our cavalry.

Colonel Winslow was now directed to crowd the enemy vigorously, outflank his cavalry, if possible, and get into Jackson before him, and informed that the main column of infantry would follow him rapidly and give him all the support he needed. He moved forward as directed, came upon the flank of Lee's cavalry, which was slowly falling back on the main road before Hurlbut's advance. A dashing charge was made here by the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, routing the enemy and capturing 1 piece of artillery, caisson and limber complete, with horses and artillerymen.

The enemy retreated toward Jackson, so closely followed by Winslow's cavalry that they had no time to form behind the intrenchments. A disposition to make a stand in the center of the town was shown by them, but a few cannon shot from the battery which accompanied our cavalry started them on the retreat, a small portion crossing Pearl River on a pontoon bridge near the town to French's division, which was on the east side a few miles distant, and the majority taking the Canton road, on which it was reported Loring was advancing with a view of effecting a junction with French. Winslow's cavalry dashed rapidly into the town and down to the river in time to save the materials of the pontoon bridge, though not in time to prevent its being cut loose and partially floated down the stream.

It was now dark; the advance division of infantry (Leggett's) was 2½ miles from the town and had already marched 18 miles since morning, 10 miles of this distance skirmishing continually with the enemy, the leading brigade deployed in line of battle. Not deeming it prudent to leave the cavalry in town unsupported, I sent back word to know if one of the brigades would volunteer to go into Jackson with me that night; that the distance was 2½ miles. The First Brigade (Force's) replied that they would go if it was 10 miles. It was accordingly marched in and placed in position behind the enemy's intrenchments on the Canton road, at 10.30 p. m.

At an early hour the next morning the pioneer corps of Leggett's and Crocker's divisions, under the direction of Captain Hickenlooper, chief engineer, commenced collecting the materials and reconstructing the bridge, which was finished by 3.30 p. m., when Brigadier-General Chambers' brigade commenced crossing, followed by Crocker's and Leggett's divisions.

February 7, moved forward at sunrise and entered Brandon without serious opposition, bivouacking 1 mile east of the town. At this point Winslow's cavalry, which had been left behind at Jackson, came up and took the advance and retained it until we reached Meridian.

February 8, at 6 a. m., resumed the march, our cavalry skirmishing more or less with the enemy, and bivouacked with the main force on Line Creek, 4½ miles from Morton, cavalry about 2 miles in advance. Shortly before dark it was reported that Loring and French had formed a junction at Morton, and were disposed to give battle.

A reconnaissance during the night and early on the following morning developed the fact that the enemy had retired during the night in the direction of Meridian.

February 9, resumed the march at 6, and entered the town of Morton about 9 a. m., and went into camp to let the Sixteenth Army Corps pass to the front. Heavy details were made and set to work destroying the railroad, 3 miles of which was torn up, ties burned, and iron bent.

February 10, resumed march at 6 a. m., and went into camp on Talla Bogue, 3½ miles east of Hillsborough, the county seat of Scott County.

February 11, moved out at 6 a. m., and went into camp on Tuscalameta Creek, having made only 8 miles. The roads were heavy, and the bridges had to be repaired and the swamps corduroyed. Captain Foster with escort company, Fourth Ohio Independent Cavalry, and three companies of Fourth Illinois Cavalry, was sent to Lake Station on the railroad, and destroyed the railroad buildings, machine-shops, turning-table, several cars, and one locomotive, not in running order, and returned, having had some little skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry, which continually hovered on our flank and rear, to pick up small foraging parties and stragglers.

February 12, pioneer corps at work at an early hour, corduroying road through Tuscalameta Swamp. Command moved forward as soon as the road was ready and reached Decatur at 5 p. m., distance 15 miles, and went into camp.

February 13, resumed the march at 6 a. m., and went into camp near the Tallahatta Creek. Supply trains of the two corps were corraled at this point, and a guard of four regiments of infantry and one battery of artillery, besides Chambers' brigade, left with it.

February 14, resumed the march at 6 a. m., Force's brigade being detached, and directed to proceed to Chunky's Station, 8 miles south, and destroy the railroad bridges, trestle-work, depot, &c., at that station, and then rejoin his division by a road bearing northeast. Shortly before reaching the station he encountered the rear guard of Wirt Adams' brigade of cavalry, drove them in disorder across the creek, and captured seven wagons, and then drove them out of the town and accomplished the work he was sent to perform. The main portion of the command moved forward and camped on Oktibbeha Creek, 4½ miles from Meridian.

February 15, Crocker's and Leggett's divisions moved forward into Meridian, camping on the south and west sides, the Sixteenth Corps occupying the north and east. In the afternoon the pioneer companies and Brig. Gen. T. Kilby Smith's brigade were set to work destroying railroads, machinery, &c.

February 16, Crocker's division, with the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, marched to Enterprise, with directions to send the cavalry regiment and brigade of infantry to Quitman, 29 miles south of Meridian, for the purpose of destroying the bridge across the Chickasawha River and the trestle-work through Alligator Swamp, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

February 17 and 18, Crocker's division, which went to Quitman, remained in Enterprise and vicinity, tearing up the railroad.

On the 19th, marched back to the Oktibbeha, 4½ miles west of Meridian. Colonel Potts' brigade, of Leggett's division, was sent west on the line of the Southern Railroad to Chunky's Station, with instructions to burn every bridge and trestle-work over a distance of

18 miles, and on reaching Chunky's Station to go north to the corral and relieve Chambers' brigade, which would then come forward. The other two brigades of Leggett's division (Force's and Maltby's) were employed tearing up the railroads and destroying Government buildings.

February 20, at 7 a. m., commenced our return march via Decatur, Hillsborough, Canton, and Brownsville, crossed Pearl River at Ratliff's Ferry, on a temporary bridge constructed by the pioneer corps of the Third and Fourth Divisions and Chambers' brigade, and reached Canton on the evening of the 26th, without any molestation from the enemy.

March 1, left Canton, the rear guard marching out about 4 p. m., and bivouacked about 5 miles west on the Livingston road. Two days before leaving Canton two brigades of the enemy's cavalry came up, and as we moved out of the town made demonstrations on our rear guard, but with trifling effect. They continued to harass our rear, and make slight demonstrations on our flanks until we passed Brownsville, always keeping, however, at a respectful distance from the infantry.

March 4, command crossed Big Black on our return, and resumed its original positions.

The following is a compendium of the operations of the several divisions of my command on the expedition:

*Third Division, Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Miles marched | 350 |
| Miles railroad destroyed | 24 |
| Railroad bridges destroyed | 52 |
| Feet of trestle-work destroyed | 4,000 |
| Cars destroyed | 10 |
| Car-wheels destroyed | 124 |
| Steam-mills belonging to C. S. Army destroyed | 3 |
| Wagons belonging to rebel army destroyed | 15 |
| Men killed | 7 |
| Men wounded (13 severely, 8 slightly) | 21 |
| Men missing (39 captured when on duty, 7 stragglers) | 46 |

*Fourth Division, Brig. Gen. M. M. Crocker.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Miles marched | 365 |
| Miles railroad destroyed | 24 |
| Feet trestle-work destroyed | 1,910 |
| Men killed | 4 |
| Men wounded (1 officer and 12 men) | 13 |
| Men missing | 44 |

*Third Brigade, First Division, Brig. Gen. Alexander Chambers.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Miles marched | 340 |
| Miles railroad destroyed | 6¾ |
| Bridges destroyed | 1 |
| Feet of trestle-work destroyed | 165 |
| Locomotives destroyed | 19 |
| Railroad cars destroyed | 18 |
| Men killed | 2 |
| Men wounded | 2 |
| Men missing (1 commissioned officer, 13 enlisted men) | 14 |

Large number of car-wheels and trucks destroyed.

*Cavalry Brigade, Col. E. F. Winslow.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Men killed | 9 |
| Men wounded | 26 |
| Men missing | 9 |

The troops subsisted for the most part upon the country, relying only on the supply train for small-stores. Large numbers of wagons, horses, mules, and cattle were brought in, taken principally from disloyal men.

*Recapitulation.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Miles marched | 360 |
| Miles railroad destroyed | 55 |
| Railroad bridges and culverts destroyed | 53 |
| Feet of trestle-work destroyed | 6,075 |
| Cars destroyed | 28 |
| Locomotives destroyed | 19 |
| Car-wheels destroyed | 724 |
| Steam-mills belonging to C. S. Army destroyed | 3 |
| Confederate wagons destroyed | 15 |
| Enlisted men killed | 13 |
| Commissioned officers wounded | 1 |
| Enlisted men wounded | 61 |
| Commissioned officers missing | 1 |
| Enlisted men missing | 112 |

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
*Major-General.*

Maj. R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*Itinerary of the Seventeenth Army Corps, Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding, February 3–March 18.**

February 3, the Third Brigade, First Division, Brig. Gen. Alexander Chambers commanding; the Third Division (with the exception of the Eighty-first Illinois Infantry, suffering from small-pox, and the Twenty-ninth Illinois Infantry, stationed at Natchez, Miss.), in command of General Leggett; the Fourth Division, commanded by General M. M. Crocker, and the cavalry forces, in command of Col. E. F. Winslow, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, left Vicksburg for expedition toward Meridian. Distance marched, 19 miles.

February 4, encountered the enemy at Champion's Hill and skirmished with him the entire day, advancing cautiously.

February 14, reached Meridian with some skirmishing and proceeded to destroy railroad, cars, &c.

February 15, the Fourth Division went to Enterprise.

February 16, the Third Brigade, Fourth Division, went to Quitman.

February 19, started on return march.

February 28, reached Canton.

February 29, encamped at Canton.

March 1, the Third and Fourth Divisions and Third Brigade, First Division, at Canton, Miss.

March 5, returned to Vicksburg. The Eleventh Illinois Infantry, with a portion of the colored troops, is at Yazoo City.

* From monthly returns.

March 7, Brig. Gen. T. Kilby Smith, with a portion of the Third Iowa Infantry, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, Fourteenth Wisconsin Infantry, Thirty-third Wisconsin, Ninety-fifth Illinois, and Eighty-first Illinois, and Battery M, First Missouri Light Artillery, ordered up Red River.

March 18, Brigadier-General McArthur assigned to command of post and defenses of Vicksburg and Natchez during absence of Major-General McPherson. General Leggett ordered to Ohio to superintend recruiting for veteran regiments of his command.*

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No. 15.

*Report of Capt. Andrew Hickenlooper, Fifth Ohio Battery, Chief Engineer, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS, ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
*Vicksburg, March* 25, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the engineer department of the Seventeenth Army Corps during the recent march to Meridian, Miss., and return, as also to submit the accompanying topographical map† of the route followed:

On the 19th of January I received an order from you to construct a bridge across Big Black River at the railroad bridge, the immediate supervision of the work being assigned to Captain Black, engineer officer of the Third Division. In company with him I made the necessary examination and selected the site for the bridge at the old road just above the railroad bridge, where the stream was about 200 feet in width, and gave Captain Black the necessary orders to build a combination pontoon and float bridge to consist of five pontoons and four rafts. The Third Division pioneer corps was ordered to report to him at Big Black River, and also such infantry details, wagons, &c., as he might require, were to be furnished by the commanding officer of the forces stationed at the bridge.

About the same time I also commenced a map of the country between Vicksburg and the Tombigbee River, over which we expected to move.

The bridge over Big Black River was 220 feet in length and 11 feet in width, furnished, in accordance with the original plan, on Monday morning, January 25.

January 31, completed three copies of the map of the country between Vicksburg and Tombigbee River. The engineer force of the Seventeenth Army Corps consisted of the Third and Fourth Divisions pioneer corps, under the immediate direction of Captain Black, engineer officer Third Division, and Captain Merritt, engineer

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* Furloughs granted in the month of March to the re-enlisted veterans of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Twentieth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second, Forty-first, Forty-fifth, and Fifty-third Illinois; the Thirty-second and Fifty-third Indiana; the Third, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth Iowa; the Twentieth, Thirty-second, and Sixty-eighth Ohio, and the Twelfth and Sixteenth Wisconsin Infantry Regiments; the Third, Fourth, and Eleventh Illinois and Tenth Missouri Cavalry, and the Thirteenth Ohio Battery.

† To appear in the Atlas.

officer Fourth Division. To Lieut. H. M. Bush and assistants, S. Davis and S. W. Dunning, was assigned the topographical survey of the route followed by the corps.

February 3, the command having rendezvoused at Big Black River, the column commenced moving over at 10 a. m. The Fourth Division encamped at Edwards' Depot, Third Division at Amsterdam, Third Brigade, First Division, at Big Black River. Roads generally good, but rather heavy for 2 miles east of the river.

February 4, moved over rather hilly country on good roads about 10¼ miles to good camping ground on branch of Baker's Creek, south of Bolton Station. Crossed Baker's Creek 4¼ miles east of Edwards' Depot. This is a small, sluggish stream, with steep banks, making it impassable except by bridging. Soil, clay loam, easily worked up by a train during wet weather. No preparations for cultivating visible.

February 5, moved eastwardly over rolling and uneven country with good roads until within 6 miles of Jackson, when we turned south through fields and marshy grounds for about 2¼ miles to south Jackson road. Passed through Clinton, a small wooden town, about 3 p. m. Town now nearly deserted. The advance reached and encamped at Jackson, but main force encamped on a small stream 3¼ miles west. Soil similar to yesterday. Some little preparations for cultivating visible. Forage scarce; length of march, 15¾ miles.

February 6, the pontoon bridge used by the rebels, and apparently just completed, having been destroyed, the pioneer corps were ordered forward, and the site for a new pontoon bridge selected about 100 yards below the old crossing, where the stream was only about 130 feet in width. The construction of the western portion of the bridge, with approaches, &c., was assigned the Third Division pioneer corps, under personal supervision of Captain Black, engineer officer, while the eastern portion with *débouché* was assigned to Fourth Division pioneer corps, under charge of Captain Merritt, engineer officer. Operations commenced about 10 a. m. by the collection of necessary material, which was found in abundance along the shore, and taken from the wreck of the bridge above. Several good pontoons were found in the drift, about 200 yards below, and one very fine one was found in the woods near the old railroad bridge, launched, and brought up to site of new bridge by a detail from the Third Brigade, First Division. Crib abutments were constructed on both sides of the river, with corduroyed approaches and *débouché*. The stream being about 130 feet in width, seven boats of a floating capacity of about 12,500 pounds each were used with 3 by 8-inch stringers bolted and braced, and 1½-inch flooring with 6-inch guides. Bridge and approaches completed at 3 p. m., and the Third Brigade, First Division, moved over and encamped upon very poor, marshy ground near a small creek, about 2 miles east of bridge. Two small bridges were destroyed by the enemy at this point, and were rebuilt by the pioneer corps of the Third Division during the night. The weather, which had up to this time been very mild, suddenly turned cold and windy.

February 7, moved eastwardly for the first 3 miles over Pearl River swamp on heavy embankments and good roads. From Pearl River swamp we moved over slightly undulating country, covered with pine interspersed with oak and considerable underbrush, to Brandon, the county seat of Rankin County, a small town. No important buildings. Soil, light red clay and loam. Section of country

north and west from Brandon, from 1 to 5 miles distant, reported productive and wealthy. Encamped on a small creek of indifferent water, about 1 mile northeast of town, where some corduroy roads were built by Fourth Division pioneer corps. Details were also sent out to destroy railroad. Length of march, 13 miles. Forage, beef, pork, and corn sufficient for one trip; no surplus left.

February 8, route nearly northeast all day over low ridges, covered with pine and scattering oak; underbrush thin. Very sparsely settled by ignorant people tired of the war. Encamped on Pelahatchie Creek, a small, clear stream of excellent water and good sandy bottom, easily forded at this point; length of march, 17¾ miles. Forage not abundant. About dark, in accordance with your orders, I made a reconnaissance of the west bank for about 5 miles northwest, and found it to be a low, swampy country, intersected by numerous sloughs or creeks impassable for anything but small bodies of infantry. The Fourth Division pioneer corps engaged in rebuilding small bridge across Pelahatchie Creek and repairing roads.

February 9, marched only 5½ miles, over ridges similar to yesterday, to Morton, a station on the Southern Railroad, where we went into camp for the purpose of allowing the Sixteenth Army Corps to pass us and take the advance. Camped on high ground with water inconvenient and rather poor. Active preparations for cultivating visible. Heavy details from infantry and pioneer corps destroying railroads.

February 10, moved eastward over low, rolling pine country, with occasionally high hills and ridges; oak underbrush; soil poor, red clay and sand. Roads generally good, but in some places very bad, requiring corduroying. A few days' rain would render them almost impassable for a large train. Very few settlers along the road, but all busy preparing for corn. Encamped on Taala Creek, 3½ miles east of Hillsborough, the county seat of Scott County, a small, wooden town, nearly deserted, and now mostly destroyed by fire. Forage, beef, pork, and corn plenty. Camping-ground very good. Water excellent and convenient. Length of march, 16½ miles.

February 11, accompanied cavalry expedition to Lake Station, on Southern Railroad, where we destroyed one-fourth mile railroad, 1 culvert, 2 locomotives, 35 cars, 1 depot, 1 warehouse, 1 machine-shop, 2 mills, and 1 water-tank. Marched only 7½ miles over heavy roads, but less hilly country than formerly. Much corduroying required; during wet weather road would be nearly impassable for a large train without considerable work by pioneers. Wealthy plantations reported on both flanks 3 or 4 miles distant. Encamped on Tuscalameta Creek on good ground. Water convenient.

February 12, commenced work on road through Tuscalameta Swamp at 5.30 a. m., with both pioneer corps. General Hurlbut's train still in the swamp. Very heavy work, over 3,000 feet of corduroying and repairing. Road finished by the time the Sixteenth Army Corps train was fairly out of the way. The route lay this morning, after passing Tuscalameta Swamp, over rolling pine country, sparsely settled, to Decatur, the county seat of Newton County, a very small town containing but little more than the necessary county buildings. Soil, similar to yesterday. Forage, beef, and pork sufficient. Camping-ground dry. Water good, and convenient. Length of march, 14½ miles.

February 13, moved nearly east all day over very heavy roads, requiring considerable repairing. Passed several very good planta-

tions, and a very wealthy settlement was reported this p. m. 4 miles to the left. Encamped on an abandoned plantation west of the Tallahatta, a small stream with limestone bottom and banks; excellent water. The supply train was corraled at this point, and pioneer train reduced to six wagons. Forage and meat sufficient. Rails scarce.

February 14, pioneer corps at work at 5.30 a. m. building bridge across Tallahatta Creek and corduroying the swamp. Command commenced moving at 9 a. m., route nearly east. During the a. m. turned suddenly south at Sukelena Creek, from the Marion road, and camped on the banks of the Oktibbeha near Matthews' plantation. During the morning passed over some ridges quite high, covered with pines, no oak or underbrush. Roads obstructed with fallen trees. Water good and convenient. Marched about 13 miles.

February 15, rebuilt a bridge across a branch of the Oktibbeha, and moved on into Meridian, a small Confederate town at the junction of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad with the Southern Railroad. Town wholly sustained by Confederate Government. Forage and provisions plenty. Water good and convenient. Length of march, 4½ miles. The weather, which up to this time had been very fine, changed during the night and to-day rained quite hard.

February 16, heavy infantry details, with Third Division pioneer corps, destroying railroad, which was effected by taking up the rails and piling the ties together 5 or 6 feet wide and 4 feet high, balancing the rails on their sides with weights on each end, and setting fire to the piles. The rails would invariably bend from 30 to 40 degrees. We found this to be the most effective manner of destroying the road. The Fourth Division pioneer corps accompanied its division to Enterprise. I also sent Assistant Dunning forward with General Crocker to sketch the route. Weather clear, but cold.

February 17, destruction of railroad continues. Lieutenant Bush and Assistant Davis at work sketching Meridian and vicinity. Weather quite cold, but clear.

February 18, heavy details still at work on railroad. Weather very cold.

February 19, still tearing up railroad. Weather exceedingly cold; light snow flying. Lieutenant Bush, topographical engineer, was ordered to report and accompany General Sherman, and Assistant S. Davis was placed in charge.

February 20, in obedience with your orders, I took charge of a detail of two companies, and destroyed all the public buildings, arsenal (containing about 1,000 stand of worthless guns), depots, warehouses, &c. The command commenced the retrogade march at 6.30 a. m., and moved back over same road over which we advanced. I remained with a detail of cavalry, and destroyed the bridge over the Oktibbeha after the rear guard had passed. Weather clear and cold. We encamped on Tallahatta Creek, having marched 17 miles.

February 21, leaving camp at 7 a. m., we moved on into Decatur, about 12 miles.

February 22, leaving Decatur at 7 a. m., we moved on rapidly until we struck Tuscalameta Swamp, where it became necessary to do considerable repairing and recorduroying. We encamped on Untuckaloo Creek. Length of march, about 17 miles. Camping-ground good, and water convenient.

February 23, leaving camp at 6.30 a. m., command moved through Hillsborough at 3 p. m., and encamped on Shockalo Creek, about 2

miles west of town. In accordance with your orders, I pushed on in advance for the purpose of making a sketch of the roads leading from Hillsborough toward Canton, which plat and report was handed to you upon your arrival. Length of march, 12 miles.

February 24, in accordance with your orders, I accompanied the Third Brigade with the pioneer corps on the direct road to Canton for the purpose of constructing a bridge across Pearl River at Ratliff's Ferry. Our route was northwest during the forenoon, but nearly west in the afternoon, over an excellent road. Oak ridges, with scattering pine and underbrush. Fine plantations under excellent cultivation; forage and provisions of all kinds in abundance. Halted for about three hours at Coffee Bogue, 17 miles from Hillsborough, to allow the men to rest and get dinner, and then moved on to Ratliff's plantation, 23 miles from Hillsborough, where the infantry went into camp on good ground, but water poor and inconvenient. I ordered the pioneer corps, under the division engineer officer, to tear down all the buildings on Ratliff's plantation in which there was lumber suitable for the proposed bridge, and accompanied the cavalry advance to Pearl River, 3½ miles, for the purpose of locating the site of the bridge, which was selected at a point about 250 yards below the old ferry. Here we secured the ferry-flat, and sent two companies of cavalry to Edwards' Ferry, about 12 miles above, to bring down the ferry-boat. They arrived with it about 10 a. m. I then returned to Ratliff's plantation, where I learned that the Third and Fourth Divisions of our corps had, after leaving Hillsborough, moved west on the old Morton road, 13 miles, to intersection of Jackson and Morton road, 2¼ miles west of Coffee Bogue, and thence northwest, on road to Ratliff's Ferry, 2¾ miles to Burnham's plantation, where the command encamped near Hurricane Creek. Camping-ground good, but water poor. Soil, light clay and sand. Nearly the whole route through scrub-oak woods. Surface low, undulating. Road in very poor condition. Length of march, 15¾ miles.

February 25, commenced operations at daylight by sending the Fourth Division pioneer corps, under charge of Captain Merritt, to the river, and leaving the Third Division pioneer corps, under Captain Black, to get out and send forward the necessary timber. The stream being 152 feet in width at this point, we concluded to use only the two ferry-flats, which were each 56 feet in length by 14 feet in width, with a floating capacity of about 73,500 pounds. The small pontoons (4½ by 14), captured at Meridian, were too light to be of any service in the bridge. The Third Division pioneer corps, having sent down enough lumber, were ordered forward and reported at the bridge at 11.30 a. m. The western portion of the bridge with *débouché* and road to connect up the west bank to main road was assigned to them, and the entrance and eastern portion of the bridge to the Fourth Division pioneer corps, under supervision of Captain Merritt. The 1½-inch flooring was removed from the boats, and heavy cleats spiked along the inside of the boats 1½ inches below the top. Two sets of stringers were also laid flush with the top of the cleats, and well braced. The old flooring was then relaid, and over this another layer of 1-inch flooring, the ends flush with the outside of the boats and well secured by spiking and heavy guide planks. A crib abutment was built at the east end of the bridge, extending out about 5 feet into the stream. A heavy oak bent, 7 feet in height, was set 20 feet beyond this, and four 6 by 9-inch stringers

connected it with the abutment, and strong 1½-inch flooring laid over the whole. In consequence of the precipitous nature of the opposite side we omitted the crib, and put in a heavy sill. The approach and *débouché* having been completed, the boats were moved out to their positions connecting with the bent on the east, and secured fore and aft to a heavy 2-inch sheet-line. Four 6 by 9-inch stringers, 25 feet in length, were secured to the sill upon the opposite side, and extending down rested upon the boat stringers 11 feet from the end of the boat; a double flooring being laid upon this, a railing constructed and pumps in position, the bridge was completed, and the command commenced moving over at 5 p. m. The cavalry, two brigades of infantry, with some artillery, passed, when a sudden stoppage at the west end of the bridge caused some heavy guns, with infantry, &c., to stop on the center of the bridge, springing the bulk-heads and causing the boats to leak badly. Repairs being necessary, the balance of the command was bivouacked upon the east side of the river. The boat was raised and repaired, light sprung bents placed under the bulk-heads fore, aft, and center, supported by a light pontoon-boat on each side. The Third and Fourth Divisions moved from Hurricane Creek to Ratliff's plantation over roads similar to that traveled yesterday.

February 26, bridge guards having been placed with proper instructions, the column commenced moving over at daylight. The Third Brigade moved nearly west over a good road. Country well settled and cultivated to Canton, the county seat of Madison County, a town of 2,000 inhabitants before the war. Houses mostly of wood; some few very fine residences of brick; streets regular; yards well laid out, showing taste and wealth; county buildings neat and substantial. Madison County is considered one of the wealthiest counties in the State, with good soil and almost unbounded resources. Length of march, 11½ miles. The Third Division encamped about 1½ miles east of town, and Fourth Division at Terry's plantation, about 1½ miles west of river. In accordance with your orders, I remained at the bridge with the Third Division pioneer corps, having sent the Fourth Division corps with the advance.

February 27, in accordance with your order, I left written instructions with Colonel Hall as to the manner in which the bridge should be destroyed, and at 12 m. moved forward with Third Division pioneer corps, arriving at Canton at 4.30 p. m. The Fourth Division pioneer corps, under Captain Merritt, are destroying railroad stock.

February 28, pioneer corps, with infantry details, destroying railroad and railroad stock. In accordance with your order, I made a reconnaissance of the Sharon roads for about 4½ miles northeasterly.

February 29, pioneer corps still at work on railroad. In accordance with your order, I made a sketch of roads leading from Canton to Livingston, Vernon, &c., for use of General Hurlbut. Weather, which has been fine since leaving Meridian, suddenly changed and became quite cold, with light rain. Third Division pioneer corps accompanied train which left this morning.

March 1, the army commenced moving toward Vicksburg this morning, the Sixteenth Army Corps taking the advance. The Seventeenth Army Corps commenced moving out of Canton about 1 p. m. on the Livingston road. Cold, disagreeable rain-storm. Moved over a rich, rolling country, and encamped on a small creek and swamp 6 miles from Canton. Camping-ground on west side. Water good and convenient. Forage and provisions scarce.

March 2, command commenced moving at daylight for a few miles over rich, rolling country, with fine plantations. Passing through Livingston, a town of about half a dozen frame houses, 13 miles from Canton, we entered a more hilly oak and pine country. Roads up to this point were very heavy on account of rain. Moving on slowly, encamped about 2 miles east of Bogue Chitto. Good camping-ground, but water poor and inconvenient. No forage or provisions to be found. Weather clear and pleasant. Length of march, 15 miles. About 1½ miles east of Livingston there is a very bad, swampy tract, about one-half mile in extent, with raised corduroy road, bridges, &c.; would be very easily obstructed and rendered impassable.

March 3, at daylight the Fourth Division pioneer corps proceeded to reconstruct and strengthen the bridge across Bogue Chitto, and repair and corduroy road upon west side. Command commenced moving at 7 a. m. After all had crossed the bridge was destroyed. Our route to-day was over high, rolling country, several fine plantations, but little signs of cultivation. About 1 p. m. passed through Brownsville, a small, wooden town with few inhabitants, 31 miles from Canton. The roads were quite heavy, having been considerably cut up by the train, which passed over them during the rain. We encamped on good ground on Hall's plantation. Water scarce. No forage or provisions in the country. Weather clear and pleasant. Length of march, 18 miles.

March 4, command commenced moving at 6 o'clock southwest over good road; high, rolling country; 5½ miles to intersection of main Vicksburg and Jackson road, and thence west on Vicksburg and Jackson road over a low, flat country to Big Black River, crossing pontoon bridge built in January. The Fourth Division moved to their old camping-ground near Hebron's. The First Brigade, Third Division, remained at the bridge. The Second and Third Brigades, Third Division, and Third Brigade, First Division, moved on into Vicksburg, 14 miles. Length of march, 25 miles.

*Recapitulation of distances traveled.*—Fourteen miles from Vicksburg to Big Black River; 32 miles from Big Black River to Jackson; 50½ miles from Jackson to Hillsborough; 25½ miles from Hillsborough to Decatur; 29½ miles from Decatur to Meridian; total, 151½ miles from Vicksburg to Meridian; 19 miles from Meridian to Enterprise; 13 miles from Enterprise to Quitman; 32 miles from Meridian to Quitman; 55 miles from Meridian to Hillsborough; 38 miles from Hillsborough to Canton; 31 miles from Canton to Brownsville; 20 miles from Brownsville to Big Black bridge; 14 miles from Big Black to Vicksburg; 373½ miles, total distance marched from Vicksburg to Quitman and return.

*Recapitulation of work performed by the pioneer corps of the Third and Fourth Divisions.*—One thousand two hundred and ten feet of bridging; 23,740 feet of corduroying.

The men of the pioneer corps worked cheerfully and faithfully whenever called upon, and I am very much indebted to the pioneer and engineer officers and assistants for their prompt and energetic co-operation.

Very respectfully submitted.

A. HICKENLOOPER,

*Capt. Fifth Ohio Battery, and Chief Eng., 17th Army Corps.*

Maj. Gen. J. B. MCPHERSON.

[Inclosure.]

*Summary statement of railroad and contraband property destroyed on the late expedition to Meridian, Miss.*

| Where destroyed. | Railroad, miles. | Trestle-work, feet. | Bridges. | Culverts. | Locomotives. | Cars. | Depots. | Warehouses. | Machine-shops. | Car-wheels. | Turn-tables. | Mills. | Stationary engines. | Water-tanks. | Telegraph, miles. | Tanneries | Army wagons. | Small-arms. | Extension rods for locomotives. | Planing-machines. | Wheel-lathes. | Drill-machines. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| By Third Brigade | 6¾ | 165 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| By Third Division: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Near Brandon, on Southern Railroad. | 1 | 450 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Chunky's Station | 6 | 250 | .. | .. | .. | 7 | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Southern Railroad between Chunky's and Meridian | 16 | 3900 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Morton | 1 | 50 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Meridian | 2½ | 50 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 150 | 1 | 2 | 3 | .. | .... | .. | .. | 1,000 | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Near Meridian on Mobile and Ohio Railroad. | 4 | 750 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Near Canton on Mississippi Central Railroad. | 3 | 50 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Near Jackson | ... | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | 15 | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Between Brandon and Meridian. | .... | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | 4 | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Total | 33½ | 5,500 | 1 | .. | 1 | 9 | 1 | 2 | .. | 150 | 1 | 3 | 3 | .. | .... | 4 | 15 | 1,000 | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| By Fourth Division: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brandon | 1 | ..... | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Morton | ... | ..... | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | 3 | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Meridian and vicinity | 5½ | ..... | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 3 | .. | ..... | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Enterprise and vicinity | 9 | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Alligator Swamp | .... | 7,920 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Quitman | 2 | 1,700 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Canton | 1 | ..... | .. | .. | 18 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1,522 | 1 | .. | 3 | .. | .... | .. | .. | ..... | 32 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Lake Station | ¼ | ..... | .. | 1 | 2 | 35 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ..... | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .... | .. | .. | ..... | .... | .. | .. | .. |
| Total | 18¾ | 9,620 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 36 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 1,522 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | ..... | 32 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Grand total | 59 | 15,285 | 6 | 4 | 21 | 45 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 1,672 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 1,000 | 32 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

## No. 16.

*Report of Capt. Lucius M. Rose, Chief Acting Signal Officer, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. SIGNAL DETACHMENT, 17TH ARMY CORPS,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March* 8, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report as follows for the month of February:

On 1st, busily at work preparing for the march.

On 2d, got all ready for a start; expect orders every moment to march.

On 3d, received marching orders for 7 a. m.; were ready on time and reported to General McPherson, at Black River, as ordered. Camped near Edwards' Depot.

On 4th, things looked like fight this a. m., and I took party and went to the front. A very short distance brought us in contact with the enemy. They consisted of two brigades of cavalry, commanded by Generals Wirt Adams and S. W. Ferguson. The fighting during the day was almost continuous. The loss on our side was about 30 killed and wounded, principally from the Fifteenth Illinois and Thirty-second Ohio. We were on duty constantly on the advance

skirmish line, and did some good service in reconnoitering the enemy's position, as they changed from one hill to another. We pointed out to the general their artillery in every instance before they could open on our lines. Quite a number of messages were transmitted to-day. Lieutenants Stickney and Dunlap had the right, Lieutenants Scott and Hurt the left, and I took the center in company with the officer commanding the skirmishers.

On 5th, heavy skirmishing all day; loss very light. Pointed out the enemy's artillery to-day just in time to save a raking shot into our column, as they were moving by the flank. The enemy had seven pieces of artillery in position to rake the road. The guns were discovered and reported by Lieutenant Scott, who was at the time some distance in advance of the skirmishers. Our cavalry dashed into Jackson after dark, getting in the rear of the enemy, compelling them to retreat on the Canton road; also preventing the destruction of the rebel pontoon bridge across Pearl River. Camped in Jackson.

On 6 h, remained in camp at Jackson awaiting the completion of bridge.

On 7th, took the advance, and went into Brandon in advance of the cavalry. Had a spirited chase after some rebel cavalry; captured the post adjutant; went on 6 miles with the cavalry; had some heavy skirmishing; returned to Brandon at night to report to General McPherson. Camped at Brandon.

On 8th, marched 18 miles; skirmishing light to-day, the rebels not having forgotten the lesson they received on yesterday from cavalry. Camped within 7 miles of Morton.

On 9th, started in advance for Morton. The Signal Corps had a skirmish with the enemy, driving them from the town and capturing the post and telegraph office. Camped here.

On 10th, in camp waiting for Sixteenth Army Corps to pass us. I asked permission to take the advance of Sixteenth Army Corps, but General McPherson said he wanted us, and if the Sixteenth wanted signal officers they must furnish them. Passed through Hillsborough. Camped 3 miles beyond that place.

On 11th, in the morning received orders to take detachment and accompany a cavalry expedition off on the flank to Lake Station for the purpose of destroying the public property, consisting of machine-shops, cars, locomotives, &c. While the cavalry were fighting the rebels the Signal Corps went through the town like a dose of salts, and just as we were leaving I noticed a man hunting around to get some one to make an affidavit that there had been a town there. Property destroyed valued at $1,000,000.

On 12th, marched 16 miles; camped at Decatur.

On 13th, marched 15 miles; camped 16 miles from Meridian.

On 14th, camped 5 miles from Meridian.

On 15th, rained all day; entered Meridian at 12 o'clock. Took possession of a house, and proceeded to dry ourselves and make ourselves as comfortable as possible.

On 16th, remained in camp.

On 17th, remained in camp.

On 20th, marched at daylight for Canton. We had the advance, and had some skirmishing. The corps is all the cavalry on this road, and the general finds plenty for us to do.

On 21st, marched 11 miles, camping at Decatur. No rebels to-day.

On 22d, started in advance of everything to go through to our trains, which had been left back, and which had not been heard from for several days. Reached the trains at 12 o'clock, having made 28 miles.

On 23d, camped at Hillsborough, rebels all around the town.

On 24th, started on Canton road, heavy skirmishing all day. Marched 18 miles.

On 25th, went to Pearl River. Opened communication across the river. Engineers building bridge.

On 26th, marched to Canton. This is one of the finest towns in the south; about 2,500 inhabitants. About 400 ladies here, refugees from Memphis and other places; very lively for signal officers.

On 27th, ordered out with cavalry on reconnaissance, and found the enemy about 1 mile out, and fought them all day; drove them 7 miles; saw several splendid cavalry charges.

On 28th, camped at Canton; spent the time very pleasantly.

On 29th, started for Vicksburg. Before we got out of the town two brigades of rebel cavalry entered the other side, and we had a brisk fight in the streets. Heavy skirmishing all day.

March 1, skirmishing all day. Beautiful country for signaling; rolling prairie. Did some work to-day.

On 2d, fighting all day. Set a trap for the rebels, but they did not bite.

On 3d, reached Black River at 11 o'clock; was ordered to go to Vicksburg on our own hook. Arrived in camp at this place at 4 p. m.

L. M. ROSE,
*Capt., and Chief Acting Signal Officer, 17th Army Corps.*

Capt. O. H. HOWARD,
*Chief Signal Officer.*

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No. 17.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Alexander Chambers, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade, First Division, of expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE,
*Vicksburg, March 7, 1864.*

SIR: In accordance with instructions received from headquarters Seventeenth Army Corps, I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Third Brigade, First Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, during the recent raid:

Number of miles marched, 340; number of miles of railroad destroyed, 6¾; number of bridges destroyed, 1; number of feet of trestle-work destroyed, 165.

The pioneer corps of Fourth Division, in charge of Captain Merritt, having reported to me at Canton, Miss., and under my direction, destroyed 19 locomotives, 18 railroad cars, and also a large number of car-wheels and trucks.

The number of men killed, 2; the number of men wounded, 2; the number of men missing are: 1 commissioned officer and 13 enlisted men.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. CHAMBERS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Third Brigade.*

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 18.

*Reports of Col. William Hall, Eleventh Iowa Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. ELEVENTH IOWA INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS,
*March* 6, 1864.

SIR: In reply to circular of this date I have the honor to reply:
First. Number of miles marched, 340.
Second. Number of miles of railroad track destroyed, 2. No bridges or trestle-work destroyed.
Third. Number of killed, wounded, and missing, none; number of veterans mustered in, 316; number enlisted to be mustered in, 40; total, 356.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. HALL,
*Colonel Eleventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Commanding.*

Capt. JOHN C. MARVEN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HDQRS. ELEVENTH IOWA INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March* 6, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with circular of March 5, I have the honor to report that there was destroyed by this command, under orders, during the late expedition, at Morton, Miss., about 1 mile of railroad track, together with railroad buildings at that place, and at Canton, Miss., about 1 mile of railroad track.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. HALL,
*Colonel Eleventh Iowa Infantry Vols., Comdg. Regiment.*

Capt. JOHN C. MARVEN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 19.

*Report of Col. William W. Belknap, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH IOWA INFANTRY,
*Near Vicksburg, Miss., March* 6, 1864.

SIR: In reply to the circular from brigade headquarters, dated March 6, 1864, I have the honor to report that on the late expedition to Meridian this regiment marched about 320 miles. Two miles of railroad track were destroyed; 1 bridge, 1 turn-table, 50 feet of trestle-work, and 1 passenger car burned near Brandon, Miss.

The loss of the regiment was 1 officer and 3 enlisted men captured near Canton, Miss.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. BELKNAP,
*Colonel Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, Commanding.*

Capt. J. C. MARVEN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Third Brigade.*

No. 20.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Addison H. Sanders, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH IOWA VOLUNTEERS,
*March* 6, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with circular dated headquarters Third Brigade, First Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, Vicksburg, March 6, 1864, I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of the Sixteenth Regiment Iowa Infantry Volunteers during the recent campaign:

The regiment marched a distance of about 327 miles, destroyed three-fourths mile of railroad track and 40 feet of trestle-work.

The casualties in the regiment were: Accidentally wounded, 1; taken prisoner, 4; left sick at Brandon, 1; total, 6.

There are 281 men who have re-enlisted as veteran volunteers in the regiment.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ADD. H. SANDERS,
*Lieut. Col., Commanding Sixteenth Iowa Infantry.*

Capt. J. C. MARVEN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Third Brigade.*

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No. 21.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Mortimer D. Leggett, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, of expedition to Meridian, with itinerary of the division.*

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March* 6, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following summary report of the part taken by my division in the late expedition to Meridian. One more in detail will be made as soon as reports from brigades can be obtained:

First. Number of miles marched [350].

Second. Number of miles of railroad destroyed, 24; number of bridges destroyed, 52; number of feet of trestle-work destroyed, 4,000; number of cars destroyed, 10; car-wheels, 124; steam-mills belonging to Confederate Government, 3; number of wagons belonging to rebel army, 15.

Third. Number of killed, 7; number of wounded, 21 (13 severely, 8 slightly); number missing, 46 (39 captured when on duty, 7 when straggling).

I am, colonel, your obedient servant,

M. D. LEGGETT,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*Itinerary of the Third Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, February 3–March 4.**

February 3, the Third Division (Twenty-ninth Illinois at Natchez and the Eighty-first Illinois suffering from small-pox, excepted) broke up camp at Vicksburg and Big Black, Miss., in compliance with orders, and marched toward Meridian; bivouacked on hills beyond Big Black; marched 19 miles.

February 4, marched to Bolton Station via Edwards' Depot and Champion's Hill; bivouacked on Bear Creek; marched 14 miles.

February 5, marched to Jackson via Clinton, skirmishing heavily with the enemy all day; bivouacked in and near Jackson; marched 23 miles, 11 in line of battle.

February 6, remained in Jackson.

February 7, crossed the Pearl River and marched to Brandon; 14 miles.

February 8, marched toward Morton; 16 miles.

February 9, marched to Morton; 4 miles.

February 10, marched through Hillsborough; 14 miles.

February 11, marched toward Decatur; 10 miles.

February 12, marched to Decatur; 18 miles.

February 13, marched toward Meridian; 12 miles.

February 14, the First Brigade marched to Chunky's Station and returned, after a skirmish, and destroying railroad, rebel stores, and transportation; 22 miles. The Second Brigade (excepting Sixty-eighth Ohio, left with teams) and Third Brigade marched on Meridian road 12 miles.

February 15, marched to Meridian; 7 miles

February 16, the Second Brigade sent along the railroad to Chunky's, 17 miles; the Third Brigade destroying railroad.

February 17, the Second Brigade marched from Chunky's to transportation corral, 23 miles; Third Brigade destroying railroad.

February 18, the First Brigade marched from corral to Meridian, 17 miles; Third Brigade destroying railroad; Second Brigade in camp at corral.

February 19, destroyed railroad.

February 20, the First and Second Brigades marched from Meridian to corral; 17 miles. The Second Brigade marched with corral to Decatur; 12 miles.

February 21, the First and Third Brigades marched to Decatur; 17 miles. The Second Brigade marched with corral; 18 miles.

February 22, the First and Third Brigades marched toward Hillsborough; 17 miles. The Second Brigade marched with corral to Hillsborough; 12 miles.

February 23, First and Second Brigades marched to Decatur; 13 miles.

February 24, marched toward Canton, on old Jackson road; 16 miles.

February 25, marched to near Pearl River; 6 miles.

February 26, marched to Canton; 17 miles.

February 27 to 29, remained at Canton, destroying railroad and foraging.

March 1, moved toward Vicksburg; 6 miles.

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* From monthly returns.

March 2, marched to Bogue Chitto Creek ; 18 miles.
March 3, marched to Queen's Hill Church ; 16 miles.
March 4, the First Brigade marched to Big Black ; 12 miles. The Second and Third Brigades to Vicksburg ; 27 miles.

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No. 22.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Manning F. Force, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, of expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE,
*In the Field, February* 14, 1864.

CAPTAIN : I have the honor to report that, in obedience to orders received last night, I marched to Chunky's Station this morning, arriving a little after 9 o'clock.

Learning on the way that General S. D. Lee was at the station with two brigades (General Wirt Adams and Col. P. B. Starke) and striking their trail 1½ miles this side of the station, I pushed on rapidly and quietly, surprised their rear guard at breakfast, drove them across the creek, captured and burned seven loaded army wagons ; burned a fine trestle railroad bridge of eight trestles and two abutments, destroyed several hundred yards of road and two small trestles, bending the rails, and burned a warehouse filled with about 100 bales of Confederate cotton.

Our casualties are 1 enlisted man of the Forty-fifth Illinois, mortally, and 2 enlisted men of the Forty-fifth Illinois, severely wounded.

The rebels left blood on both sides of the creek, and our fire made some confusion among them. They held with some obstinacy a stockade, which commanded the bridge, but their loss was undoubtedly small. Having but forty rounds I was obliged, under the circumstances, to be sparing in their use.

The two companies of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, under Captain Collins, behaved handsomely. The brigade officers and men, as always, did all that could be asked.

Citizens report that General Lee received orders last night to concentrate and report at Meridian to-day. He arrived at Chunky's from the northwest, coming into the road over which we went, about 1½ miles this side of the station.

Sixty of Ferguson's men passed shortly before me over the road which I passed over. A portion of the force at Chunky's were seen to pass to our right on the farther side of the creek, apparently with the design of annoying us on our return. By returning on the road indicated in the order I saw nothing of them.

I am ordered by Lieutenant-Colonel Strong to remain at this place, the wagon park of both corps, till further orders, an attack being apprehended.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. F. FORCE,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. J. C. DOUGLASS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure.]

HDQRS. 17TH ARMY CORPS, DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE,
*In Camp, February* 13, 1864—7 p. m.

Brig. Gen. M. D. LEGGETT,
*Commanding Third Division:*

GENERAL: On this side of the first large creek from where I left you is a road leading to Chunky's Station on the railroad. At daylight to-morrow morning you will send General Force's brigade down to the station by this road, and let him join us by some road which comes into the road we are advancing on ahead of our present position.

While at the station General Force will have his command do all the damage to the railroad he possibly can. He will take his ambulances and a section of artillery, and you had better have a few men of the pioneer corps go along to repair roads and clear away obstructions. His wagons will come along with the main train, as he will join us to-morrow night.

Captain Foster will be instructed to send two companies of cavalry to report to General Force at daylight in the morning.

Yours, truly,

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
*Major-General.*

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HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., THIRD DIV., 17TH ARMY CORPS,
*Big Black Bridge, Miss., March* 10, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to General Orders, No. 32, I have the honor to report that at 3 p. m., February 3, I received marching orders, and the same evening crossed the Big Black with the rest of the division.

At noon of the 5th, the brigade was formed in line of battle on the eastern side of Clinton against a strong position occupied by the enemy with artillery and dismounted cavalry, who fell back as we advanced. At this position 2 enlisted men of the One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois were wounded.

Major-General McPherson, desiring to occupy Jackson with one infantry brigade that night, the brigade volunteered, and, entering at the south side of the city, reached the works at the north of the city by 8 p. m., a march of 23 miles. About the works and on the road north I captured and destroyed eight new army wagons. During the night bivouacked near Brandon. A detail from the brigade destroyed half a mile of railroad.

On the evening of the 13th, in pursuance of orders, I bivouacked off the road on the banks of one of the branches of the Chunky, 4 miles in rear of the army, and proceeded next morning to Chunky's Station, surprising and driving a cavalry force there under command of Maj. Gen. S. D. Lee, and destroying the bridge and road and other public property, a report of which was made at the time, and which I request to be appended and made part of this.

I have since heard that Brigadier-General Jackson, who was the immediate commander of the two brigades encountered there, arrived on the field from Meridian in time to be wounded; that a colonel was killed; that the rebels lost besides in killed from 6 to 11 [men] and several horses killed, and that the bridge was entirely consumed to ashes.

The Forty-fifth Illinois, Major Duer commanding, was left guard-

ing the bridge over the Oktibbeha, while the rest of the brigade was at Meridian.

While lying at Meridian, the Twentieth Illinois, Lieut. Col. Dan. Bradley; One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, Lieutenant-Colonel Howe, and Thirty-first Illinois, Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, destroyed more than 3 miles of railroad, bending or breaking every rail.

At Canton, by order of the division commander, a brigade party of 50 mounted men and 4 officers was organized.

On the 29th of February, I sent out the party, numbering 43 men and 3 officers, under command of Lieutenant Smith, adjutant of the One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, on the Jackson road, with instructions to be cautious of rebel cavalry. On returning and when 6 miles out, they met a mounted force of about equal numbers which they, after some doubt, ascertained to be rebels. Following and skirmishing they soon found larger parties, concealed on each side of the road. They fell back skirmishing, and the greater part succeeded in gaining the swamp. Marching by compass they ran upon a rebel bivouac just at dawn. Turning this, Lieutenant Smith succeeded in reaching camp next morning, with the other 2 officers and 25 men. The rest were undoubtedly captured. Several of them were wounded, 1 severely. One of the returned party was wounded. I have examined, with the officers, and find that in the encounter with this force Lieutenant Smith behaved with discretion and gallantry.

At Canton the One hundred and twenty-fourth, Twentieth, and Forty-fifth Illinois destroyed 2 miles of railway, bending every rail, and 100 feet of trestle-work.

At the crossing of Bogue Chitto Creek, on the return, the brigade was ordered to guard the rear until the whole army, including the cavalry, had crossed. For this purpose the brigade was posted on a ridge separated from the creek by an open field three-fourths of a mile across. The advance of the rebel cavalry appeared close upon the heels of our own. A little firing from the skirmish line kept them off while the regiments withdrew and every person had crossed except a few mounted officers, when the first rebel appeared upon the ridge which we had occupied.

We returned to camp on the afternoon of the 4th of March.

The conduct of the brigade on the march was admirable. The column was compact and without stragglers, the train always closed up, bivouac was made and broken up promptly. The brigade was not as much as five minutes behindhand by the watch in obeying a single order received on the march. Their excellence in drill was of service. At Clinton and Chunky's the slightest intimation of command was apprehended and executed with such facility that the brigade appeared to work itself.

Capt. J. B. Walker, assistant adjutant-general, was unfortunately absent upon leave when the expedition set out, but joined us at Canton on the return. Lieut. O. Greenough, aide-de-camp; Lieut. S. R. Adams, aide-de-camp; Lieut. G. C. Morton, acting assistant-quatermaster, and Lieut. H. C. Foster, picket officer, constituting my staff, were indefatigable. Lieut. Col. J. H. Howe, commanding One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois; Lieut. Col. Dan. Bradley, Twentieth Illinois; Lieut. Col. R. N. Pearson, Thirty-first Illinois; and Maj. John O. Duer, Forty-fifth Illinois, prompt, watchful, and zealous, had their respective commands well in hand at all times.

With the whole brigade, officers and men, there appeared to be a strife who would do most to carry out all orders received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. F. FORCE,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. J. C. DOUGLASS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Appended is a list* of casualties and of destruction done. Several of the men captured near Canton were also wounded.

RAILROAD DESTROYED.

Near Brandon, by brigade working party, one-half mile of road and 50 feet of trestle.

At Chunky's Station: One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, trestle bridge, 150 feet; Thirty-first Illinois, one-half mile of railroad.

At Meridian: One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, 1 mile railroad and 50 feet trestle; Twentieth Illinois, 1 mile railroad; Thirty-first Illinois, 1¼ miles railroad.

At Canton: One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, 1 mile railroad, 50 feet trestle-work; Twentieth Illinois, three-fourths mile railroad, 60 feet trestle-work; Forty-fifth Illinois, one-half mile railroad, 74 feet trestle-work.

ARMY WAGONS DESTROYED.

At Jackson: By brigade detail, seven new wagons (empty).

Chunky's Station: One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, two (loaded); Forty-fifth Illinois, two (loaded). Besides 100 bales Confederate cotton and station-building at Chunky's Station.

RECAPITULATION.

Killed, none; wounded, officers, none; enlisted men, 7; missing in action, 19; lost while absent without leave, 4.

DESTROYED.

Miles of railroad, 6; feet of bridge and trestle-work, 435; army wagons, 15 (8 of them loaded); Confederate cotton, 100 bales.

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## No. 23.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Daniel Bradley, Twentieth Illinois Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. TWENTIETH ILLINOIS INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS,
*Big Black, Miss., March* 8, 1864.

CAPTAIN: The following is a report of the operations of the Twentieth Regiment during the recent expedition under command of Major-General Sherman:

February 3, about 5 p. m., the regiment with the balance of the brigade crossed the Big Black River.

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* Nominal list of casualties (omitted) shows 2 men, One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, wounded at Clinton; 3 men, Forty-fifth Illinois, wounded at Chunky's Station; and 2 men, One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, wounded near Canton; also 1 man, Thirty-first Illinois, missing, near Brandon; 7 men One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, 1 man Twentieth Illinois, 6 men Thirty-first Illinois, and 4 men Forty-fifth Illinois, missing near Canton. Four men of the brigade were lost while straggling.

February 5, shortly after meridian, the First Brigade being ordered to the front, the regiment was formed in line of battle on the left (north side of the road), and, with skirmishers deployed, advanced, the rebel force retiring before us. Same date entered Jackson, Miss.

February 14, the brigade having been detached for the purpose from the main column, we marched to Chunky's Station, on the Southern Railroad. At this point we had a slight skirmish with a force of rebel cavalry, driving them across Chunky Creek (or river). The regiment met with no loss.

February 17, being in bivouac at Meridian, Miss., the regiment was ordered to scout on the Choctaw road. Scouted 7 miles, discovering nothing of importance.

February 18, regiment engaged in destroying railroad. Tore up and burned 1 mile of track and a large quantity of new ties.

February 19, relieved the Thirty-first Illinois on picket duty at mill, 2 miles east of Meridian, remaining there until the 20th instant, when we started on return trip.

February 29, regiment engaged in destroying railroad south of Canton, Miss. Tore up and burned two-thirds of a mile of track and about 60 feet of trestle-work.

March 3, at the crossing of Bogue Chitto Creek, line of battle was formed to cover the passage of the train, cavalry, &c., this regiment on the extreme rear, the Forty-fifth Illinois supporting, but the enemy failed to make his appearance.

March 4, arrived in camp on Big Black.

During the expedition this regiment tore up and thoroughly destroyed, by burning, twisting, &c., $1\frac{2}{3}$ miles of railroad track and 60 feet of trestle-work.

The casualties of the regiment during the expedition are as follows: John Ross, private, E Company, Twentieth Illinois Volunteers, supposed captured while straggling, February 15, 1864, on the march between corral and Meridian; Private Oliver Harrold, E Company, Twentieth Illinois Infantry Volunteers, supposed captured February 29, 1864, near Canton, Miss., during skirmish by authorized foraging party, of which he was a member.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL BRADLEY,
*Lieut. Col., Comdg. Twentieth Illinois Volunteers.*

Capt. J. C. DOUGLASS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 24.

*Report of Maj. Harry Almon, Thirty-first Illinois Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. THIRTY-FIRST REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
*Big Black, Miss., March* 10, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with Special Orders, No. 32, from Third Division headquarters, I have the honor to submit the following as the part taken by my regiment in the late expedition to Meridian, Miss.:

On February 3, we left camp and marched some 4 miles, where we camped for the night.

On the morning of the 4th, we took up the line of march, the Thirty-first being in front of the brigade. There was nothing of consequence occurred that day.

On the morning of the 5th, the Thirty-first Illinois fell to the rear of the division train as guard. When within about 3 miles of Clinton, Miss., I received orders to move with my regiment to the front and rejoin the brigade, which was skirmishing with the enemy. On arriving at the head of the column I was ordered to relieve the Seventeenth Illinois, which was supporting the Twentieth Illinois. The line was then advancing. After marching in line of battle for some distance, I marched the regiment by the right flank, file left, immediately into the road. I then received an order to form the regiment in line of battle on the right of the road in an open field. Before an advance was ordered we moved by the right flank for about one-quarter of a mile, then by the left flank for some 300 yards. We could see the enemy in front, but could not, on account of the distance between us, give them a turn. We then marched until after dark, when General Leggett called for volunteers to go into Jackson that night to hold the place. My regiment was one of the volunteer regiments. We arrived at Jackson, Miss., at about 11 p. m. the night of the 5th February.

Remained in camp at Jackson on the 6th.

The 7th, crossed Pearl River, and marched about 1 mile beyond Brandon, where we camped for the night.

8th, marched within 4 miles of Morton, where we again camped. Nothing of consequence occurred since leaving Jackson.

Morning of the 9th, with the expectation of meeting the enemy we marched into Morton, Miss., arriving at that place in the forenoon, where we encamped. While at this place the Sixteenth Corps passed.

On the morning of the 10th, we marched in the direction of Hillsborough. My regiment was guarding the ammunition train. The night of the 10th camped 3 miles beyond Hillsborough.

On the 11th, we were in camp until 3 p. m. We then started in the direction of Decatur.

Marched all night until 4 a. m. of the 12th. We then camped for a few hours' rest. The regiment guarded 60 prisoners that day and night.

13th, marched 10 miles, nothing of interest occurring.

14th, marched to Chunky's Station, 8 miles from the main road. Reached that place about 11 o'clock. While the advance regiments were skirmishing with the enemy, I put out a line of skirmishers in front and rear, and then set part of the regiment to destroying railroad. Had no one killed or wounded that day. Marched back to the main road, my regiment being rear guard, and camped at the corral until next day.

15th, marched to Big Chunky, a distance of 12 miles, where we camped for the night.

Morning of the 16th, marched into Meridian, reaching that place in the forenoon; went into camp.

17th, was ordered out to destroy railroad. Worked all day and destroyed about 1¼ miles of railroad. Changed camp to the opposite side of town.

18th, marched out about 2 miles southeast of Meridian to mill, and guarded it while meal was ground.

On the 19th, was relieved by Twentieth Illinois, and marched back to camp at Meridian.

20th, received marching orders. Started at 6 in the morning; made 18 miles. Camped for the night.

21st, marched into Decatur. Camped about 3 p. m.

22d, traveled about 18 miles; nothing of importance.

23d, reached Hillsborough, and camped for the night.

24th, marched within about 10 miles of Pearl River.

25th, marched to Ratliff's plantation, 5 miles from Pearl River. Camped for the night.

26th, crossed Pearl River. Marched to Canton, 5 miles.

27th, remained in camp until late in the evening, and then changed camp to the opposite side of the town.

28th, changed camp again, nothing of importance occurring.

29th, mustered for pay. Sent out a foraging party under Lieutenant Sippel. Had 6 men captured.

March 1, left Canton for Black River at 12 m. Went into camp at 12 o'clock at night; marched 5 miles.

2d, passed through Livingston and camped on Bogue Chitto.

3d, crossed Bogue Chitto, passed through Brownsville; marched 15 miles.

4th, reached Big Black at 3 p. m. Went into camp.

While on this expedition I had 10 men captured by the enemy; none killed or wounded. Seven of those captured while on duty and acting under orders. Three straggled from their command the morning of the 10th February, near Morton, Miss., and are supposed to be captured, but have been dropped as deserters.

The following is a list of those lost.*

Respectfully submitted.

H. ALMON,
*Major, Commanding.*

Capt. J. B. WALKER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 25.

*Report of Maj. John O. Duer, Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS FORTY-FIFTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
*Big Black, Miss., March* 8, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In accordance with General Orders, No. 32, division headquarters, I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by the Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry in the late expedition to Meridian, Miss.:

The regiment took a common part with the brigade until our arrival at Chunky River Station, on the Southern Railroad. On the morning of the 14th of February, having the advance of the brigade, was ordered to throw one company forward as skirmishers. F Company, Lieutenant Vincent commanding, was quickly deployed to the right of the road, and was soon under fire, and under directions of the general commanding the brigade, the regiment was formed in rear of my skirmishers and advanced immediately upon the enemy. The company of skirmishers in my front drove the enemy across the creek, having 3 wounded—Privates Peter Griffin and Isaac Way, severely, and Private Charles Collas, supposed to be

* Nominal list omitted.

mortally. The regiment advanced within a few rods of the Chunky River. I then complied with directions of the general commanding the brigade—sent B and G Companies to protect companies of the One hundred and twenty-fourth (who were destroying the bridge) from the enemy's sharpshooters. The enemy soon fell back, leaving six wagons. These wagons were burned by Captain Van Dervort, commanding B Company. At 10.30 a. m. was ordered to resume our line of march for the Meridian road.

On the night of the 15th of February, received orders to remain at Oktibbeha bridge and guard it until General Chambers' brigade came up.

General Chambers passed along on the afternoon of the 18th February, when I marched to Meridian and reported to Captain Douglass, assistant adjutant-general, Third Division, who informed me where the brigade was encamped.

On the 29th instant, Lieutenant Clifford, of Company C, and 10 men (mounted), in compliance with orders, reported to brigade headquarters and joined the brigade foraging party for the purpose of foraging for the several regiments of the brigade. On the afternoon of the same day they were attacked by a superior force of the enemy's cavalry, and after a sharp skirmish were compelled to fall back, leaving their horses and plunder in the hands of the enemy. Four of Lieutenant Clifford's party were captured, namely: Privates William Williams, of Company A; John Rolfe, of Company F; Henry C. Errett, of Company H; and Alfred B. Ramsey, of Company K, the latter being wounded in the hand when captured. The rest took shelter in a wood near by and remained until daylight next morning, when they passed to the left of the enemy's pickets and came to camp. During the expedition no men were lost by straggling.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN O. DUER,
*Major, Commanding Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry.*

Capt. J. B. WALKER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 26.

*Report of Lieut. Col. John H. Howe, One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS 124TH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
*March 7*, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to orders, I respectfully submit the following detailed statement of the part taken by this regiment in the late expedition to Meridian:

Agreeably to orders, the One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois Infantry moved out of camp at 5 p. m., February 3, 1864, with five days' rations, two in haversacks and three in wagons, mustering 23 commissioned officers and 327 enlisted men, with three wagons, one for hospital purposes, one for the use of officers, and one for rations and cooking utensils. Roads being very bad, moved 4 miles from the river and camped.

February 4, sent 4 men unable to stand the march back to camp. Moved at 9 a. m., One hundred and twenty-fourth in the rear of the

brigade. Marched 10 miles; progress very slow, owing to constant skirmishing with the enemy by the Fourth Division in front. Went into camp at 9 p. m. Plenty of wood and water, though the men carried rails 1½ miles, being told that none could be found at the camp-ground.

February 5, moved at 7.30 a. m., skirmishing with the enemy by Second Brigade before sunrise. At 10 o'clock the First Brigade passed to the front, relieving Second and Third Brigades. At 12 m. passed through Clinton, the music playing and the blue banner flung out to the breeze. Two miles beyond Clinton, the rebels occupying a strong position and showing a considerable front, the brigade was deployed on the right of the road, the One hundred and twenty-fourth in the front on the right, supported by the Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, the regiment being just behind the crest of the hill, from which could be obtained a splendid view of the rebel line. Companies K and B were deployed as skirmishers in front of the regiment preparatory to an advance. While lying in this position, Private Joseph Sadler, Company A, was wounded in his right arm by a canister-shot from a shell from one of our own batteries, which was playing upon the rebels over the heads of the men. Private Cleaveland Acox, Company B, had left arm shot away and right knee-cap broken by a solid shot from the rebel battery. Soon after advanced in line of battle toward the enemy. Skirmishers in advance found the enemy *non est*. A mile and a half farther again came in sight of the enemy, One hundred and twenty-fourth on the right of the division and in rear of the Thirty-first Illinois. Some thirty regiments deployed in line of battle, at sight whereof the rebels decamped. Moved toward Jackson on a new road. The First Brigade volunteering to march into Jackson, the One hundred and twenty-fourth led the way, and was the first infantry regiment to cross the breast-works of that place. Camped at 9.30 o'clock within the breast-works on the north side of town. The men were very tired, having marched over 20 miles.

February 6, lay in camp all day. At 10 a. m. received orders to move on a scout in the direction of Carlton, but they were countermanded before put into execution.

February 7, moved out of camp at 6.30 a. m. and crossed Pearl River. Marched 14 miles, passing through Brandon, and went into camp at 5.30 p. m.

February 8, moved out of camp at 9 a. m. Marched 17 miles, and camped at 7 p. m.

February 9, moved at 10.20 a. m., One hundred and twenty-fourth in the rear of the Seventeenth Corps. Reached Morton, and camped at 2.20 p. m.

February 10, moved at 10.30 a. m., First Brigade acting as train guard. Very slow marching. Passed through Hillsborough. Camped at 10.45 p. m., having made 15 miles.

February 11, moved at 4 p. m., guarding train. A disagreeable march, the train being much delayed in crossing swamp. Camped at 3 a. m. Marched 14 miles.

February 12, moved at 10 a. m. Reached Decatur, 16 miles, at 7.40 p. m., and camped.

February 13, moved at 10 a. m. Marched 10 miles through bad swamps, and camped at 10 p. m.

February 14, the First Brigade being detached from main column to destroy the station and railroad bridge at Chunkyville, 8 miles

from main road, we moved out of camp at 6 a. m. with but two ambulance teams. Marched very rapidly. Encountered rebel outposts 1 mile from the station. By order of General Force, Companies A and F were detailed to destroy the bridge, Companies H and C to destroy the village, and the remainder of the regiment to destroy railroad. The Forty-fifth and Twentieth Illinois Infantry being deployed in line of battle on either side of the road, the One hundred and twenty-fourth, followed by the Thirty-first Illinois Infantry, moved in column down the road. The brigade advancing in this manner, the rebels were speedily driven across the river. The bridge, a fine, strong trestle-work, with water-tanks and other buildings, was fired under a galling fire from the enemy's sharpshooters. A large building filled with cotton bales, a house used as the rebel headquarters, and other buildings were also destroyed, and one-half mile of railroad iron and ties taken up and burned. Two of the wagons across the river, deserted by the enemy in his hurried retreat, were also fired by members of the One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois Infantry. The regiment sustained no loss whatever. The object of the expedition being accomplished, the brigade, by another road, regained the original line of march by 3 p. m. and went into camp.

February 15, lay in camp till 11.30 a. m. Raining heavily most of the time. Marched or waded 12 miles, and went into camp at 7 p. m.

February 16, moved at 9 a. m., marched 5 miles, reaching Meridian at 11 a. m. Camped in southwest portion of town. Afternoon the regiment destroyed about 1 mile of railroad and some 50 feet of trestle-work, doing it very rapidly and effectually by breaking the rails by main strength.

February 17, removed camp to south side of town. Company C, by order of General McPherson, was detailed to guard the arsenal, but was relieved before night by the Fifty-eighth Illinois. Heavy details for picket, 180 men and 8 commissioned officers being out at one time.

February 18, remained in camp, heavy details for picket.

February 19, remained in camp.

February 20, moved out of camp at 6.30 a. m., homeward bound. Received 29 rebel prisoners from Eighth Illinois. Company H was put in charge of them. By order of General Force, Companies E, K, G, and B were detailed to burn the arsenal, Ragsdale House, and other buildings designated to them, which agreeable task was thoroughly performed. Rations being short, with permission foraging parties were daily sent out, not meeting with much success. Marched 18 miles, and camped at 4 p. m.

February 21, by order, the rebel prisoners were turned over to General Maltby, commanding Third Brigade. Moved out at 7.30 a. m. Reached Decatur, 12 miles, and camped. Rations very short.

February 22, marched at 8 a. m. Made 18 miles, and camped at 7.15 p. m. Received one day's rations of coffee, hard tack, and side meat.

February 23, marched at 8 a. m. Reached Hillsborough at 1.30 p. m.; 10 miles.

February 24, started at 6 a. m. on Canton road. Marched 16 miles, and camped at 3 p. m. The forage party, in charge of Adjutant Smith, being very successful, the regiment was abundantly supplied with rations.

February 25, moved at 10.45 a. m. Marched 6 miles, and camped 3 miles from Pearl River. Forage plenty.

February 26, crossed Pearl River at 2 p. m. Marched 16 miles, and camped near Canton at 8 p. m. One man shot accidentally through left thigh while foraging.

February 27, all sick and lame men and extra teams sent forward. At 4 p. m. marched through town, and camped 1 mile southeast of court-house. At 8 p. m., when two-thirds of the regiment were asleep, the bugle sounded "Fall in." The One hundred and twenty-fourth was in line in five minutes, and led the brigade out of camp. Proceeded about one-eighth of a mile, when ordered back to camp.

February 28, to-day Adjutant Smith, who, by order of General Force, had been placed in command of the mounted men of the brigade and made several captures of stock of provisions, being out on a similar scout with 38 men, fell in with a large force of rebel cavalry when 7 miles from Canton, on his return to camp on the Jackson road. After a gallant fight of upward of one hour, and a loss of 5 or more wounded, it was necessary to retreat to avoid capture, and the horses and equipments of the men were abandoned to the enemy; many of the animals, however, being shot and badly maimed. The regiment was ordered out to their assistance, but ordered back at the pickets, hearing that no aid could be rendered.

March 1, received orders to be ready to move at 8 a. m. The adjutant reported at 9 a. m. corporal and 6 men of his party still missing. Moved at 12.30 p. m. Marched 5 miles, and camped at 11 p. m.

March 2, the First Brigade being ordered to hold the hills and cover the retirement of the entire corps, the One hundred and twenty-fourth was deployed on the right of the road in front, supported by the Thirty-first Illinois Infantry. Companies A and F were deployed as skirmishers. The army being across the bridge, the brigade at 12.30 fell back, and, taking its place in the column, marched through Brownsville, camping at 8 p. m.—a march of 18 miles.

March 4, started at 7.30 a. m., One hundred and twenty-fourth in extreme rear. Crossed Big Black at 2 p. m.

Recapitulation: Number of miles traveled, 304; number of miles of railroad destroyed, 2½; number of feet of bridge destroyed, 250; number wounded (1 mortally), 4; number missing in action, 7.

J. H. HOWE,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.*

Capt. J. B. WALKER.
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 27.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Marcellus M. Crocker, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. FOURTH DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS.
*Hebron, Miss., March 6, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Fourth Division, of the Seventeenth Army Corps, broke camp on the 3d day of February, 1864, and crossed the Big Black River at the railroad bridge the same day, camping on the Jackson road, about 5 miles from the river.

On the 4th of February, the Fourth Division had the advance, and at Champion's Hill encountered the enemy's cavalry. The Second

Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hall, having the advance of the division, one regiment of this brigade (the Fifteenth Illinois Volunteers, Col. George C. Rogers commanding) were deployed as skirmishers, and the rest of the brigade advanced in line of battle. They slowly drove the enemy during the day, making a march of about 10 miles. At 4 p. m. one regiment of General Gresham's brigade (the Twelfth Wisconsin, commanded by Lieut. Col. J. K. Proudfit) was sent to the support of the Second Brigade. The loss of this day's skirmish was as follows: Twelfth Wisconsin, 3 killed and 4 wounded.

Starting from our camp on the morning of the 5th, we marched to Meridian without encountering an enemy or hearing an authorized shot, arriving at that point on the 15th day of February, 1864.

The next day, pursuant to orders from you, we started at 6 a. m. for Enterprise, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, arriving there at 4 p. m. same day. At that point I detached General Gresham with his brigade to destroy the railroad bridge in the vicinity of Quitman, across the Chickasawha, and the bridge and trestle-work across Alligator Swamp, this side of Quitman.

The expedition started at daylight the morning of the 17th and returned the next morning at 9 o'clock, having been entirely successful.

On the 19th day of February, at 6 a. m., the division returned to Meridian and Hillsborough road, and encamped 4 miles west of Meridian, from which camp we marched without interruption to and across Pearl River, at Ratliff's Ferry, and encamped on the 26th day of February at Terry's plantation, 12 miles east of Canton.

On the 27th of February, I sent one regiment from General Smith's brigade (the Thirty-third Wisconsin, Col. J. B. Moore commanding) to Madisonville, with orders to destroy the bridge and sawmill at that point, which duty was accomplished, and the regiment rejoined the command at Canton on the 28th of February. From Canton to our present position at Hebron's plantation, 10 miles east of Vicksburg, we marched with but slight interruption, arriving in camp at 1.30 p. m. on the 4th day of March. The division was on the expedition thirty-one days. The First and Second Brigades marched 350 miles; the Third Brigade marched 390 miles. The number of miles of railroad destroyed is as follows: Two miles, near Meridian, of the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad, by General Smith's brigade; 10 miles of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, at Enterprise, by the First and Second Brigades, and 2 miles, at Quitman, by the Third Brigade. Three railroad bridges were destroyed, one over the Chickasawha, near Quitman, 210 feet long; one over the Oktibbeha, about 75 feet long, and one on the Alligator Swamp. One and a half miles of trestle-work on Alligator Swamp from 11 to 32 feet high and 1,700 feet at Quitman from 10 to 30 feet high were destroyed. In the First Brigade no men were killed or wounded and 28 are missing. In the Second Brigade 1 officer and 4 men wounded and 16 missing. In the Third Brigade 4 men killed and 8 wounded. The railroad buildings at Enterprise and Quitman were destroyed entirely.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. M. CROCKER,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 28.

*Report of Lieut. William C. B. Gillespie, Forty-first Illinois Infantry, quartermaster First Brigade, of operations February 26–28.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., FOURTH DIV., 17TH ARMY CORPS,
*February* 29, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with Special Orders, No. 22, from these headquarters, dated February 26, 1864, I organized a foraging party, composed of the mounted men of this brigade, for the purpose of procuring forage, bacon, horses, mules, &c., for the use of this command. On the same day, at 8 a. m., I left our camp on the east side of Pearl River, crossed to the west side, and took a direction east of north on a neighborhood road marked 1, as per accompanying diagram,* to Adams' and the residence marked 2 and to Williams'. Lieutenant Nichols, quartermaster of the Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteers, accompanied me. We had with us 70 men. At the above-mentioned residences we procured about 2,000 pounds of bacon and several bushels of sweet-potatoes. From Adams' I sent a sergeant and 10 men down toward Pearl River after some mules, &c., said to be hidden there. He found 8 serviceable mules and a lot of bacon, 500 pounds of which he brought away with him in an old wagon found at the same place. At the residence marked 2 we procured another wagon, both of which we loaded with bacon, &c. I then took 10 men and started to camp with the animals, &c., already procured, taking the Canton road to a point marked A, where I waited for the Third Division to pass, and then learned that the Fourth Division was going into camp back 2 miles toward Pearl River, for which point I immediately started, and reached about dark. I divided the bacon among the different regiments of the brigade pro rata. Before starting back from the point marked 4, I sent Lieutenant Nichols and 60 men to Willis' after some mules and horses, said to be hidden in the swamp. He procured 12 mules and 4 horses, and returned to camp in safety, not having met with an armed rebel during the entire day.

At 7.30 a. m. on the 28th instant, I started again with 84 men, 74 of whom were placed under the charge of Captain Potter, Fifty-third Illinois. Lieutenant Nichols accompanied me again to-day, with 10 men as an advance guard. We started from camp on the road marked 3, followed it to its intersection with the Canton and Carthage road, thence to near the point marked 4, where we halted for a few minutes. While there, 5 mounted and armed rebels came from the direction of Carthage and turned to the north at the point marked 4. Lieutenant Nichols and myself, with our advance, immediately started in pursuit, the remainder of the column following at a short distance in the rear. We advanced to within 75 yards of the rebels, when Lieutenant Nichols commanded them to halt. One of them turned on his saddle and saw us, when they started off at a rapid rate. We fired several shots after them and pursued them to Lott's, where they turned right and left and we lost them in the brush. From Lott's we continued north, and shortly discovered 3 rebels coming on to the road ahead of us. I ordered the sergeant and 6 men, which I had placed in the advance, to pursue them, and started forward myself. We pursued them to the point marked 5, where we halted, and I sent

* Not found.

2 men forward to call in the advance. They captured 1 who had disposed of his arms and accouterments. We then returned to the point marked 6, where I directed Captain Potter to leave a sergeant and 14 men to wait for 3 men who were still absent, leaving the prisoner in their charge, and then took to the left with a negro from Cannon's plantation to guide us to swamp where Lott was said to have his mules and horses hid, at the point 7. I directed 10 men and a sergeant to be left to watch a road near by. We then searched the swamp, but found nothing. I then directed that Sergeant Drom, of the Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteers, and 4 men be sent back to take the two squads left at points numbered 7 and 6, and take them back to Williams' at 4, and then proceed toward Willis', and meet us at that point. We continued on south and east. At 8 we captured 2 deserters from a Mississippi infantry regiment and brought them to camp. At 9 we halted at the intersection of the two roads. While resting we saw about a dozen men make their appearance at the point numbered 10, about three-quarters of a mile from us. We concluded to wait for them to come up, but by the time they got half of the distance between us at least 200 more made their appearance, marching slowly and orderly along. We immediately started on the double-quick toward Canton, and reached the point marked 11, where we halted and waited for them to come up, and had quite a brisk skirmish with them, killing or wounding 2 so badly that they fell from their horses, one of which was supposed to be their commander. In this skirmish we lost none. I then proceeded as fast as possible on toward Willis', to see if I could find Sergeant Drom with his men, and hurry them up to our relief. Not finding them there, Captain Potter fell back as slowly as the circumstances would permit with the men to the point marked 13, leaving 2 men in the rear to come forward and notify him of the approach of the enemy. This point (13) we concluded to hold as long as possible, to see if Sergeant Drom with his men would not make their appearance. While waiting for the advance of the enemy, the 2 men that Captain Potter had left to notify him of the approach of the enemy came up, and reported brisk skirmishing at or about Willis'. We waited full half an hour at point 13 before the rebels made their appearance, and then gave them another lively skirmish, dismounting at least 2 more of them, whose horses came rushing inside of our lines, 1 of which was captured by our men and brought to camp. In this skirmish we had 2 men wounded, 1 of whom, after being helped onto his mule by Lieutenant Nichols, was afterward seen to fall from his mule and was left to the tender mercies of the enemy. Some 2 or 3 more whose mules faltered dismounted and took to the brush, and afterward came into camp afoot. When it became evident that we could not remain much longer at Williams' (13), I sent 3 men out toward Lott's to endeavor to communicate with Sergeant Drom, with orders for him to take his men and proceed on the road leading to Sharon, and make for the Canton road with all possible speed. We then retreated in as good order as possible to camp, the rebels following us to within a mile or less of camp. The 3 men that I sent to warn Sergeant Drom of his danger were unable to make the cross-roads at Lott's, it being already covered by rebels. They then took to the left through the fields, and made the Sharon road at a point between Lott's and Sharon, where they found about 15 of Drom's men, from which place most of them made their way safely to camp, skirmishing with rebels at various points. Since returning to camp I have

learned that Sergeant Drom, instead of making for Williams' and thence to Willis', had turned to the east at Lott's and endeavored to reach us at Willis' by a nearer road, and struck the road at a point at or near 12, after we had passed said point in falling back, and had skirmished considerably with the rebels at that point, being the firing that our outlooks had reported having heard. Here Sergeant Drom is said to have been killed or badly wounded, his men being compelled to fall back on the same road that they had advanced on, being followed by a portion of the rebels. There are about 15 men missing unaccounted for as yet.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, sir, with much respect, very obediently, your humble servant,

W. C. B. GILLESPIE,
*First Lieut., and A. A. Q. M., 1st Brig., 4th Div., 17th A. C.*

Capt. WILLIAM WARNER,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 29.

*Report of Capt. John Potter, Fifty-third Illinois Infantry, of skirmishes on Pearl River.*

CAMP 53D REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS,
*Hebron, Miss., March 6, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to transmit herewith the following report:

On the morning of February 27, 1864, while in camp near Pearl River, Miss., I was detailed to take command of the foraging party from the Fifty-third Illinois Infantry and report them to the headquarters of First Brigade. Upon reporting, I was placed in command of the foraging party from the brigade, consisting of 66 privates and 4 sergeants from the different regiments of the brigade. My instructions from the acting assistant adjutant-general were to forage under the directions of Lieutenant Gillespie. Lieutenant Gillespie took the advance, and I followed with the guard. We started on a cross-road running north, and after traveling about three-quarters of a mile we came out on the Canton road. Taking the Canton road we traveled about 1 mile, and then left the Canton road and took a cross-road running northeast. This we followed about 2 miles, when Lieutenant Gillespie ordered a halt. He then directed me to leave a sergeant and 13 men from the Fifty-third Illinois to guard the road until we returned. I left the guard, as directed, giving the sergeant orders to throw out a picket on each flank and in front. Lieutenant Gillespie then directed me to move forward with the remainder of the party. Here we left the road on which we had been traveling and took a road running through a thick wood and in an easterly direction. When about 1 mile from the road where we left the guard, Lieutenant Gillespie again ordered a halt, and directed me to leave a sergeant and 10 men from the Third Regiment Iowa Infantry. The instructions which he directed me to give this guard were as follows: If they saw the enemy approaching they were to fall back to the guard from the Fifty-third Illinois, which had been left to guard the road. If they encountered no enemy they were to remain where they had been stationed until we returned or sent them orders to follow. We then moved forward until we came to a large swamp. Here Lieutenant

Gillespie ordered another halt. He then took 10 men as a guard and went in search of meat, which was supposed to be concealed somewhere in the swamp. He returned in about an hour, and directed me to send a sergeant and 4 men back to the squads which we had left as guards, with orders for the men of the Third Iowa to join those of the Fifty-third Illinois, the whole to return in a body to the Canton road and there await our return. After having sent the sergeant and 4 men back, Lieutenant Gillespie directed me to follow him. I did so, and after traveling about two hours we came out on the Canton road at a point about 7 miles northeast of our camps. Soon after striking the Canton road we discovered a squad of mounted men following in our rear. I paid but little attention to them at first, thinking their squad too small to trouble us. We had gone but a short distance farther when one of the men came up from the rear, and reported a strong force of the enemy pursuing us. Our position at this time not being a good one, I pushed on until I gained the top of a large hill. Here I halted, dismounted my men, and formed a line across the road. I had barely time to accomplish this when the enemy came in sight, about 50 in number. They were coming at a gallop and in bad order, the leader being some distance in advance of his men. I ordered my men not to fire until I gave them orders to do so. The rebel leader came up to within about 40 yards of me, when I ordered him to halt. He did so. He having on a blue shirt or jacket under his great coat, I asked him who he was, as I was in some doubt upon that subject. He replied by shouting, "Who are you?" By this time several of his men came up with him, and I could see that they wore the Confederate uniform. I then ordered my men to fire. Our first volley turned and confused them, and our second emptied two saddles and sent them flying back in the direction from which they came. We kept up our fire as long as they were in sight. As soon as they were out of sight I gave the order to mount, and pushed on until I came near the road where the squads from the Fifty-third Illinois and Third Iowa had been ordered to meet us. About this time a man who was some distance in the rear came up and reported to me that the enemy were coming on again with a force larger than before. We were by this time at the road where the Third Iowa sergeant and his squad were ordered to report. Here we found Lieutenant Gillespie, who had been missing since the first attack. He reported that the sergeant and squad had not yet come up. Thinking it best to wait as long as possible for them, I ordered the men to dismount and form line, leaving every fourth man to hold horses. We then went back a short distance and formed on the brow of a small hill to wait for the enemy to approach. We waited but a short time before they came, this time about 150 strong. They came up in good order, formed line, and attempted to charge us. Our first fire broke and confused them. They retreated a short distance, formed line, and again came up at a charge, but with no better success than before. Our first volley turned and scattered them and emptied several saddles. Their leader soon formed them, and again they came up at full gallop. Again were they repulsed. This time their leader tumbled from his saddle, and was not seen to rise again. About this time a man from the Thirty-third Wisconsin Infantry was severely wounded. I ordered 2 men to take him to the rear, put him on a horse, and start with him for camp. When this was done I ordered the men to fall back and mount; then we started for camp, traveling as fast as our worn-out horses and mules could go without leaving men behind.

The wounded man must have been captured, as his horse was too badly used up to keep up with the squad. I arrived in camp with all the men I took out except those who, by direction of Lieutenant Gillespie, had been left to guard roads. Nearly all of these men must have been captured, as but 4 of them have ever returned to their commands. I cannot close this report without first mentioning the bravery and gallant conduct of Quartermaster Nichols, of the Thirty-third Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, who rendered me valuable and efficient service throughout the different skirmishes of the day.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN POTTER,
*Captain Company F, 53d Regt. Ill. Inf. Vols.*

Capt. WILLIAM WARNER,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 30.

*Report of Maj. George W. Crosley, Third Iowa Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRD IOWA INFANTRY,
*Hebron, Miss., March 6, 1864.*

SIR: In compliance with orders, I have the honor to make the following report of the loss of this regiment during the recent expedition. As the regiment was almost constantly under the immediate notice and direction of the general commanding the brigade, and as the only detached duty we were called upon to perform was the destruction of railroad at Meridian and Enterprise, I presume it is only necessary for me to make a detailed report of the loss of the regiment in the affair of the 28th of February.

On the morning of the 28th of February, 23 men of this regiment, under charge of Sergt. Daniel Buckley, Company A, were ordered to report to brigade headquarters to go out with the brigade foraging party. During the day the party was attacked by the enemy's cavalry, and Sergeant Buckley and 12 men of the detail from this regiment were taken prisoners. The following is a list* of the names of the men captured. Private Francis M. Coverston is known to be wounded severely, perhaps mortally. Corpl. William H. Symms was seen to fall from his horse, and is supposed to be killed. Nothing is known of the fate of the rest of the party.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. W. CROSLEY,
*Major, Commanding Third Iowa Infantry.*

Capt. WILLIAM WARNER,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 31.

*Reports of Col. Jonathan B. Moore, Thirty-third Wisconsin Infantry, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. THIRTY-THIRD REGT. WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS,
*Near Hebron, Miss., March 5, 1864.*

SIR: In compliance with General Orders, No. 4, of this date, I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the opera-

* Nominal list omitted.

tions of the Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteers in the recent expedition to Jackson, Meridian, &c.:

Pursuant to orders received on the 2d day of February, 1864, I moved the regiment out of camp, near Hebron, Miss., at 8 a. m. on the 3d day of February ultimo, having present for duty in my command 2 field, 3 staff, and 12 line officers and 499 enlisted men.

The regiment crossed Black River on the 3d of February and encamped 3 miles east of the river on the Jackson road. Marched through Jackson, Miss., and crossed Pearl River on the 6th of February, several skirmishes with the enemy having occurred in the mean time, but in which the Thirty-third Wisconsin was not engaged.

Marched at sunrise on the 7th ultimo, and passed through Brandon at 3 p. m. of same day.

Reached Morton at 2 p. m. on the 9th ultimo, passed through Hillsborough on the 10th and reached Decatur February 12 at 10.30 p. m.

On the 13th ultimo, marched about 12 miles. Road blockaded and bridge burnt at this point. Here an order was received ordering all sick and disabled men to be left behind with the train. The Thirty-third Wisconsin did not leave a man.

Marched at 9.30 a. m. on the 14th February, and reached Meridian, Miss., on the 15th ultimo at 10 a. m., in the midst of a severe storm of rain. In the afternoon of same day the regiment proceeded to tear up railroad at and near Meridian, according to orders.

On the 16th February, at 7 a. m., the regiment marched with the Fourth Division to Enterprise, Miss., a distance of 17 miles from Meridian. Here the Thirty-third Wisconsin was detailed for provost duty, and remained on duty as provost guards until the morning of the 19th ultimo, on which day the regiment marched about 18 miles and camped near Chunky Creek, 4 miles west of Meridian. From this point daily marches were made of from 10 to 18 miles, until the 25th ultimo, when the regiment crossed Pearl River and camped on Terry's plantation.

On the 27th February, the Thirty-third Wisconsin marched at 11.45 a. m., with orders to destroy a bridge across Pearl River, near Madisonville. The regiment encountered a small body of the enemy's cavalry near Smith's Ferry. After an exchange of shots the enemy broke and fled in confusion, and the regiment proceeded to Pearl River and effectually destroyed the bridge aforesaid. On the morning of this day and before the regiment left Terry's plantation, I caused to be detailed, in obedience to orders, 1 sergeant, James E. Drom, Company H., and 14 men to forage for the use of the Thirty-third Wisconsin. These men were placed, with details from the other regiments in the brigade, under the charge of Lieut. W. C. B. Gillespie, acting assistant quartermaster First Brigade, Fourth Division, Seventeenth Army Corps.

During the day this party was attacked by a large body of the enemy's cavalry and driven back, with the loss of the following men of the Thirty-third Wisconsin: Sergt. James E. Drom, Company H; Corpl. Romanzo J. Ashley, Company A; Private Warren D. Card, Company H; Private William Neff, Company I; Private James H. Bowlsby, Company C. The fate of these men is unknown, but they are undoubtedly killed or taken prisoners. The last that was seen of them they were almost surrounded by the enemy and fighting with undaunted bravery. The loss of these men is much felt and regretted by the regiments, particularly that of Sergeant

Drom and Corporal Ashley, who were among the best non-commissioned officers in the regiment. No other loss occurred to the regiment on the expedition.

On the 4th day of March, 1864, the Thirty-third Wisconsin arrived in camp near Hebron, Miss.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the officers and men of my command for the excellent order and discipline which has been observed by the regiment on this expedition, and for the manner in which all their duties have been performed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. MOORE,
*Colonel, Commanding Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteers.*

Capt. WILLIAM WARNER,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HDQRS. THIRTY-THIRD REGT. WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS,
*Near Canton, Miss., February 28, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, pursuant to orders received on the 27th instant, I moved my command to Madisonville, Miss., reaching that point at 5 p. m. of yesterday. Here we met a small party of rebel cavalry, who exchanged shots with us, but broke and fled on the Smith's Ferry road without any loss on either side. At Smith's Ferry I found a very fine pontoon bridge, which I effectually destroyed. At Madisonville I found a steam saw-mill and grist-mill. The saw-mill had been used by the Confederates to saw the timber for the pontoon bridge above mentioned. I deemed it proper to destroy this saw-mill, and acting without orders on the subject I effectually destroyed it by breaking the saws and machinery to pieces. The grist-mill I left in running order.

I am glad to say of my command that no building or fence has been fired on the march, nor any property destroyed without orders.

Very respectfully,

J. B. MOORE,
*Colonel, Commanding Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteers.*

Capt. WILLIAM WARNER,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 32.

*Report of Col. Cyrus Hall, Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. 2D BRIG., 4TH DIV., SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Camp Hebron, Miss., March 9, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my command in the recent expedition to Meridian and Enterprise:

My brigade, composed of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Seventy-sixth Illinois Infantry Regiments, left Camp Hebron on the morning of the 3d of February and marched to Black River, where a halt of two hours was made, after which I crossed the river and marched to Amsterdam, where my command encamped for the night.

The next morning, February 4, my brigade was in advance of the Seventeenth Army Corps, a small detachment of cavalry forming the advance guard, which, upon reaching the famous battle-ground of Champion's Hill, was suddenly assailed by a superior force of the enemy and somewhat rudely handled. General Crocker here ordered me to deploy my leading regiment (the Fifteenth Illinois Infantry) as skirmishers, and move carefully forward, and if possible develop the position and purpose of the enemy. After advancing thus for a short distance, my skirmishers became earnestly engaged with the enemy, who disputed every inch of ground with ability and determination. I then brought up the Fourteenth and Seventy-sixth Illinois Infantry Regiments and formed them on the right and left of the Clinton road, in easy supporting distance of the line of skirmishers. In this order I moved my command forward until we arrived at the forks of the road west of Baker's Creek, where the enemy opened upon us with two pieces of artillery, using shot and shell with great accuracy. The Twelfth Wisconsin (of the Third Brigade, Brig. Gen. W. Q. Gresham commanding) came forward to assist the Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, whose stock of ammunition was growing short, and in passing an open field in rear of the line of the skirmishers became exposed to the enemy's fire, one shot from the enemy's guns proving fatal to 3 men of the regiment. A solid shot passed through the ranks of the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, fortunately doing no damage with the exception of wounding 1 man slightly. The line of skirmishers was pushed forward to Baker's Creek, closely followed up by my brigade in line of battle. Here we encamped for the night, having driven the enemy for a distance of 7 miles over a very rough and broken country, which afforded several very favorable positions for the enemy, from which it was very difficult to dislodge them. Notwithstanding the disadvantages under which we labored, such was the skill and adroitness of the officers and men of the Fifteenth Illinois Infantry that but 1 officer and 2 men were wounded during the day. From information obtained from prisoners and from unmistakable evidences left upon the field, the loss of the enemy was very severe.

Our march after this until we arrived at Meridian was a very pleasant one. The heavy rain on the morning of our arrival at Meridian had but little effect upon the troops, owing to the foresight of our commanding general in permitting us to occupy the houses of the citizens of Meridian.

From Meridian we proceeded to the town of Enterprise, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, where I was charged with the destruction of the railroad north of the town, which was done in a most thorough manner, every tie being burned and every rail bent for a distance of 6 miles.

After remaining at Enterprise until the morning of the 19th, we commenced our return march, striking the road traveled in going to Meridian, 3 miles west of Oktibbeha Creek. Thence returning by way of Decatur, Hillsborough, Canton, &c.

On the 1st day of March, my command left Canton, marching 8 miles and camping on Rick's plantation, where it did not leave until 12 o'clock on the morning of the 2d, during which time we witnessed the performances of the enemy's cavalry, which was pressing our cavalry in the rear rather sharply. I placed my entire command in line of battle, and disposed of the two pieces of artillery left with my brigade by order of Brigadier-General Crocker and awaited their

approach, but they came not. After exchanging a few shots at long range the artillery limbered up, and the entire brigade moved off as usual. Heavy skirmishing was kept up until we reached Livingston, near which place we found the column halted. Having closed up upon the column, we remained about four hours, during which time the enemy came up in large numbers upon our flanks. I again placed my two guns in position and gave them a few shells, which sent them in every direction at the top of their speed. Here the enemy withdrew, and as far as I know did not fire another gun upon any of our forces.

My command arrived at Hebron, Miss., on the 4th day of March, having been absent thirty days. Executed a march of 350 miles without having a single case of sickness of a serious character in the entire command.

Of the officers commanding regiments in this brigade I cannot speak too highly. Col. George C. Rogers, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, was wounded by a spent ball at Baker's Creek, while receiving instructions from me as to the disposition of his regiment for the night. I would most respectfully and earnestly call the attention of the commanding general to Lieutenant Allison, of Company H, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, who lost one hand and part of the other at the battle of the Hatchie, and was again severely wounded in the leg in the engagement at Champion's Hill. His gallantry and soldier-like qualities are highly commended by his regimental commander. During this expedition the officers and men, with but very few exceptions, behaved remarkably well. A list of casualties has already been transmitted to your headquarters.

I have the honor to be, captain, very respectfully your obedient servant,

CYRUS HALL,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. C. CADLE, Jr.,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 33.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Walter Q. Gresham, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade, of expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., FOURTH DIV., 17TH ARMY CORPS,
*Hebron, Miss., March* 5, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command on the recent expedition through Mississippi:

On the 4th ultimo, being the second day out, the Second Brigade, Colonel Hall, encountered the enemy's cavalry on the eastern slope of Champion's Hill, and advanced skirmishing to within 1½ miles of Baker's Creek, when I received orders from General Crocker to send a regiment to the front and relieve the Fifteenth Illinois.

The Twelfth Wisconsin, Lieutenant-Colonel Proudfit commanding, was ordered up and moved forward promptly and cheerfully and relieved the Fifteenth Illinois and drove the enemy up to and across Baker's Creek, with a loss of 3 men killed and 3 wounded.

In this charge the Twelfth Wisconsin captured 1 lieutenant and 5 men. The enemy left on the field 4 men killed and 1 major mortally wounded. At the same time and place the Fifty-Third Indiana had 2 men wounded. Near Decatur the Twelfth Wisconsin had 1 man killed and 2 wounded while on duty with a forage party, and near the same place 4 men straggled from the Fifty-third Indiana and were captured. No casualties in either of the other regiments.

On the 16th ultimo, in pursuance to orders from Brigadier-General Crocker, with my own brigade, the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry and one section of Spear's battery, I proceeded from Enterprise to Quitman and destroyed a large railroad bridge over the Chickasawha, 2 miles south of the town. The bridge was covered and 210 feet long. Immediately north of the bridge I effectually destroyed 600 yards of trestle, from 10 to 30 feet high. We also destroyed the railroad depot at Quitman, the large and elegant hospital buildings, recently erected, one large steam flouring-mill, and one large steam saw-mill. The railroad bridge was guarded by the Ninth Alabama, but on our approach they abandoned their stockades and fled in the direction of Mobile.

Having accomplished the object of our expedition to Quitman, I moved my command back to the head of Alligator Swamp and bivouacked for the night, having marched from 7 a.m. to 8 p. m. 27 miles and worked four hours.

On the morning of the 17th, we destroyed the trestle-work over Alligator Swamp, 1½ miles in length, and from 9 to 30 feet high. We also destroyed 2½ miles of railroad north of the swamp, burning the ties and heating and bending every rail.

During the expedition my brigade marched 375 miles, destroyed 4½ miles of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, 2 miles of which were bridges and trestle. Although the march was fatiguing, both officers and men bore it with cheerfulness and without a murmur.*

I am, captain, very respectfully, &c.,

W. Q. GRESHAM,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. C. CADLE, Jr.,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 34.

*Report of Col. Edward F. Winslow, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, commanding Cavalry, Seventeenth Army Corps, of expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY FORCES,
*Near Vicksburg, Miss., February* 29, 1864.

COLONEL: In obedience to orders from Major-General McPherson, my command moved over Big Black at the railroad bridge about noon, 3d instant, and bivouacked at Baker's Creek bridge.

Marched at 6.30 next morning toward Raymond, meeting enemy's cavalry in some force soon after leaving the Jackson road. A charge upon our left flank was repulsed and the enemy followed to the main road, from whence a detour was made and the enemy

* Nominal list of casualties (omitted) shows 4 men killed, 7 wounded, and 4 missing; total, 15.

again encountered at Mr. Walton's, near Bolton. The Tenth Missouri (Major Benteen commanding) being in front, were dismounted, and the enemy driven immediately from his position with some loss, among others 1 major, 1 captain, and 1 second-lieutenant being killed.

On morning of 5th, taking a right-hand road at Woodman's, we entered Clinton by the Raymond road just after the enemy left the town, and found them strongly posted 2 miles east, when we moved to the right and approached Jackson by the Mississippi Springs upper road, and when arrived within 1½ miles of the city discovered the enemy's column, 3 miles in length, moving by fours toward and into J[ackson] on the main road half a mile in front, falling back before the advance of Major-General Hurlbut's column, then about 5 miles from the city. Taking advantage of the enemy's surprise at our sudden appearance, I moved quickly forward to the attack, dismounting the Fourth Iowa (Major Parkell commanding), which was in front, that they might gain the hill at intersection of the roads, and directing the Eleventh Illinois (Lieutenant-Colonel Kerr commanding) to deploy to the left, advance over the open ground, ascend the hill, and strike the enemy in his flank and rear. Observing that the enemy advanced one regiment in line to cover his flank and his lateral movement, I caused one rifled gun to throw a few shells into their column in order to aid the attack of Colonel Kerr. One shell killed 3 men. Meantime the Tenth Missouri were pushed forward, immediately following the Fourth Iowa, and advancing at a gallop closely pursued through the line of fortifications and into Jackson that portion of the enemy's column which retreated in that direction. The brigade of Colonel Starke, with a portion of the one in front, being thus cut off from the city, broke in disorder and fled toward the Canton road, the Eleventh Illinois capturing from them 1 Rodman gun and 1 ambulance, with cannoneers and drivers. Leaving directions for the Fifth Illinois (Major Farnan commanding) and the Fourth Iowa to push out south and north, guarding the approaches to the city, and directing the battery to occupy the hill commanding the place, I proceeded, in accordance with instructions, to the rebel pontoon bridge, arriving just in time to prevent, with Tenth Missouri, its destruction. At this time it was quite dark, and the respective regiments bivouacked in their positions. By this success the enemy were prevented from occupying the fortifications, from destroying stores and the bridge, and a large number of men were dispersed through the surrounding country, who failed to rejoin their commands during the time of the expedition. Several rebel general officers escaped capture by hard riding.

The next morning a reconnaissance for 5 miles toward Canton developed no enemy in force, but exhibited many evidences of hasty flight on preceding evening, quite a number of wagons, ambulances, and much other property being abandoned on this road. Bivouacked near the asylum until 9 a. m., 7th instant, when the command crossed Pearl River, and taking a left-hand road 6 miles out entered Brandon, encamping 3 miles east of that place, in advance of the army, after a slight skirmish with some rebel cavalry.

At 6 o'clock next day took the advance of the army and encamped on Line Creek, skirmishing the entire distance, 19 miles.

Reporting to Major-General Hurlbut morning of 9th instant, we moved past Morton, near which place the enemy were found in line of battle on the preceding evening, and encamped east of Shockalo Creek.

Marched on 10th instant 16 miles, passing through Hillsborough, where we had a short skirmish, encamping 5 miles in advance of the army, on Ontagoloo Creek.

On the evening of the 11th, encamped east of Coonahatta Creek, marching 15 miles; Captain Parsons, with two companies, proceeding to Lake Station and aiding in the destruction of property.

Encamped east of Chunky Creek at 5 p. m., 12th instant, after considerable heavy skirmishing.

Marching at daylight on 13th, encamped 10 miles west of Meridian, fighting some hours after dark (Fourth Iowa in advance), over a rough, mountainous country, driving the enemy 5 miles and punishing him severely. Above one hundred stand of arms were abandoned by him during this fighting. The obstruction of these rough roads by felling of timber was prevented.

Moved early on morning of 14th instant, meeting command of Brigadier-General Ferguson 2 miles west of Meridian, driving the enemy speedily through the town. Bivouacked at 3 p. m. on plantation of Mr. McLamore, remaining there until morning of the 16th, the enemy having retreated beyond Marion.

During the march the command had been in the saddle twelve days; were engaged with the enemy much of that time, always successfully; had expended above 50,000 rounds small ammunition. The enemy had left on the different fields 50 men dead, and must of course have lost others and had men wounded in due proportion. Thirty of these wounded were found in one hospital at Lauderdale Springs. The men had burned but one building, had worked hard at making roads and building bridges, and had conducted themselves as true patriot soldiers.

The prisoners captured to this date numbered 72, many of them of rank, and 37 deserters had been received, all transferred to infantry commands.

Notwithstanding a march of above 175 miles, the horses were in better condition than when we left Big Black River.

The Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, being directed to report to Brig. Gen. M. M. Crocker, commanding Fourth Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, did not rejoin me until after my arrival at Canton, and I cannot now give any account of the operations of that regiment during this temporary detachment.

While the army remained in and around Meridian my command scouted to the east and north, destroying property, bridges, &c., and traveling many miles.

During the first two days of the return march we had the rear of the Sixteenth Army Corps marching to Union. At this point, acting under special instructions from Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, commanding Department of the Tennessee, I proceeded north, through Philadelphia and over the Pearl River, to a point about 10 miles south of Louisville, thence across over to the main road from that place to Kosciusko, passing through the latter place, Thomastown, and Sharon, to Canton, where we arrived at 2 p. m., 25th instant, one day in advance of the army, having met no enemy north of the Pearl.

The command of Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith could not be definitely heard from. I sent two messengers eastward, with instructions to join him if possible.

Remained in bivouac on Three Mile Creek, east of Canton, during the 26th instant.

Acting under orders from the major-general commanding, with Fourth Iowa Cavalry, I had the honor of escorting him to Big Black, arriving at Messinger's at daylight, morning of the 28th.

The three regiments remaining at Canton were placed in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel Kerr, senior officer.

Not having received the reports of regimental commanders, I cannot give exact account of our casualties, but am confident they will not exceed following exhibit, viz: Officers, no casualties; enlisted men: killed, 10; wounded, 12; missing, 15; total, 37.* Our capture of horses largely exceeds the number of those killed and abandoned.

Just previous to our arrival at Canton the command gathered up a large number of negroes and mules. The negroes and several prisoners of war, captured on return march, were transferred to the infantry at Canton. Several mills, two fine bridges over the Pearl, and some other property was burned by order, and I regret to say that some other buildings were wantonly destroyed. The case of one officer caught firing a building has been reported through proper channels.

I cannot praise too highly the conduct of the entire command, when under fire, and respectfully mention following officers as deserving especial credit: Maj. F. W. Benteen and Captain Neet, Tenth Missouri Cavalry; Captains Dee and Parsons and First Lieut. Alonzo Clark, Fourth Iowa Cavalry; also Capt. M. H. Williams, acting assistant inspector-general, and First Lieut. A. B. Fitch, acting assistant quartermaster (acting aides), both of whom rendered me valuable assistance.

The command traveled, previous to my leaving Canton, an average of 425 miles to the regiment.

The number of men on the expedition was 1,400, of whom 1,300 were subject to my orders.

I respectfully call your attention to the great want of horses and arms.

Hoping this brief report of the operations of the command will be satisfactory, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

E. F. WINSLOW,
*Colonel and Chief of Cavalry.*

Lieut. Col. WILLIAM T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Seventeenth Army Corps.*

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No. 35.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. W. Sooy Smith, U. S. Army, commanding expedition from Memphis, including operations since December 28, 1863.*

MEMPHIS, TENN.,
*February* 26, 1864.

SIR: Major-General Butterfield kindly offers to bear a letter to you, and as the boat is waiting to start I will write you as concisely as possible without referring to my journal for dates.

I moved the infantry brigade temporarily assigned to my com-

* But see revised statement, p. 193.

mand* first on Panola and then on Wyatt, and drew Forrest's forces and attention to these points while I threw my whole cavalry force to New Albany, where I crossed the Tallahatchie without opposition.

Forrest then fell back to Grenada, and I moved on by way of Pontotoc to the swamp at the crossing of the Houlka. Here we were met by Gholson's rabble of State troops, to the number of about 600, whom we stampeded and drove pell-mell across the swamp, which we found held in force by the enemy. There was but a corduroy road leading through it, which was impassable by cavalry and could not be turned. So I pressed a saucy attack upon the line of the road as if to force it, and swung my main body over to Okolona and thence threw off a brigade to Aberdeen, threatening Columbus, and moved the other two brigades right down the railroad, destroying it as we went, tearing up the ties, burning them and bending the rails.

From Okolona to West Point we found Government corn in immense quantities all along the road, and this we burned until there was a line of fire from place to place. I had no means of ascertaining definitely what was Government corn and what the property of private citizens, and could only burn that which was cribbed near the railroad. This I did to the extent of from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 of bushels. We also destroyed 2,000 bales of Confederate cotton; private cotton was not disturbed.

All along this portion of our march negroes came flocking to our lines with horses and mules by the hundreds and thousands.

As we approached West Point, we found about a brigade of the enemy drawn up to meet us. This brigade we drove back across the Sakatouchee Swamp, on our right, after a short, sharp fight.

We advanced to West Point and felt of the enemy, who was posted back of the Sakatonchee on our right and the Oktibbeha in our front, in force fully equal to my own that was available for service, encumbered as we were with our pack-mules and the captured stock, which by this time must have numbered full 3,000 horses and mules. The force consisted of mounted infantry, which was dismounted and in strong position under good cover, and beyond obstacles which could only be passed by defiles. To attempt to force my way through under such circumstances would have been the height of folly. I could not cross the Tombigbee, as there were no bridges and the stream could not be forded. To have attempted to turn the position by our right would have carried me all the way round to Houston again, and Forrest could again check me at the Houlka Swamp. I was ten days behind time; could get no communication through to you; did not know but what you were returning, and so determined to make a push at Forrest in front while I retired all my incumbrances and my main body rapidly toward Okolona, just in time to prevent a rebel brigade from getting in my rear, which had been thrown back for that purpose.

We then retired, fighting for over 60 miles day and night, and had the fighting all our own way except at Okolona, where the Second Tennessee Cavalry, the last regiment of a brigade that I had thrown into line to cover the passage of our column by the town, that broke from line into column to move off, stampeded, and galloped over our rear guard, drove a battery of little pop-guns off into a ditch, where it was so badly smashed up that we could not

*Colonel McMillen's First Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Army Corps.

get it along, though we had ample time to have done so, as we unhitched the horses, destroyed the ammunition, and spiked the guns. They spread confusion everywhere, and the rebels, taking advantage of it, pitched into us and gave us a pretty rough handling, inflicting a loss upon us of perhaps 300 or 400 men, killed, wounded, and missing. We at last got organized forces enough to the rear to check the enemy again, and continued our running fight, giving them volley after volley from every line of cover, and then retiring to the next, losing lightly all the while and firing upon the enemy, who were constantly advancing upon positions of our own choosing. This was continued to a good position about 10 miles this side of Okolona, where I disposed a heavy force and let them advance upon us, and gave them a very handsome thrashing after about one hour's hard fighting.

We made some splendid saber charges during this action, and could have cut them to pieces had it not been for the undergrowth to which they fled.

Their loss must have been very large, as we poured a heavy direct and flank fire upon them at close range for the space of an hour, while some of my regiments were charging them in flank. One of the prisoners we took said he saw Colonel Forrest, brother to the general, fall killed.

This fight sickened them so that their subsequent attacks were very feeble, though they followed almost to New Albany.

Our total loss in killed and wounded will reach probably 400, and of stragglers they must have picked up perhaps 200 or 300, possibly more, but this is immaterial. They took very few prisoners from us in actual battle.

And now, general, I can but express my deep regret that I could not get through to you, knowing how greatly you could have been aided by so large a cavalry force, but it was simply impossible, from the following causes : First, the clumsiness of so large a command, encumbered as it was with pack trains and captured stock. Second, the peculiar formation of the country, traversed as it is by an ugly barrier from Grenada to West Point. Third, the number and character of the enemy numerically equal to my available force and better armed for fighting dismounted.

The results of my trip are as follows : First, corn burned, from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 bushels. Second, Confederate cotton burned, 2,000 bales. Third, 30 miles of railroad destroyed. Fourth, 3,000 horses and mules and 1,500 negroes brought out of the enemy's country. Fifth, losses inflicted on the enemy in killed and wounded, I think not less than 500 or 600, possibly much greater, and prisoners, 100. Sixth, forage and provisions for 7,000 of our troops taken from the enemy during our march.

Then, as to the movement of troops we occasioned from your front, if any, you know better than we do. If I could have been in time I would have made still more strenuous efforts to reach you, but I could not learn whether you were still at Meridian or whether you had retired.

The rebel troops were reported falling back toward Demopolis and Selma, where they were being heavily re-enforced from Dalton and Atlanta.

I will soon write you, referring to my journal for dates.

We left West Point to return on the 22d instant.

Our cavalry is weary, but will soon be rested and in better condition than before. I will set Grierson to work fixing them up and go to Nashville immediately, where I am greatly needed.

Grierson behaved nobly, and is a man of more capacity than either you or I have credited him with.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. SOOY SMITH,
*Brigadier-General, Chief of Cavalry.*

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
*Commanding Department of the Tennessee.*

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MEMPHIS, TENN.,
*February* 26, 1864.

SIR: I penetrated to West Point, Miss., with my cavalry, reaching that point on Sunday, the 21st instant.

Burnt 2,000,000 bushels of corn and 2,000 bales of Confederate cotton. Brought out about 3,000 horses and mules and 1,500 negroes.

Could not force my way through to Sherman. He took Meridian at noon on Sunday, the 14th instant, without serious resistance.

Enemy reported falling back on Demopolis and Selma, where they are said to be re-enforcing from Dalton and Atlanta.

I could not hear that Sherman had advanced beyond Meridian. A portion of his force was reported at Lauderdale and afterward at Scooba, but I could not get into communication with him.

I fought the rebels at four points severely, and skirmished with them as we retired for 60 miles. We had the best of them at all points except at Okolona, where our loss was very severe, including a battery of small howitzers, which was driven into a ditch and so disabled that we could not get it along. This whole trouble resulted from the bad conduct of a portion of McCrillis' brigade.

I will write fully, and start back to Nashville about day after tomorrow.

WM. SOOY SMITH,
*Brigadier-General, Chief of Cavalry.*

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
*Nashville.*

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HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF CAVALRY,
MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
*Nashville, Tenn., March* 4,* 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of recent cavalry operations made by the direction of Major-General Grant, commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi, and in accordance with the [orders and†] written instructions of Major-General Sherman, commanding the Department of the Tennessee, copies of which are herewith inclosed.‡

On the 28th day of December, 1863, I started from this city with

*Another report, dated April 3, 1864, is on file; discrepancies between that and this are indicated by foot notes.

†Not in report of April 3.

‡See inclosure No. 3 to Sherman's report of March 7, 1864, p. 181.

the Second, Third, and Fourth Tennessee Cavalry Regiments, Third and Fifth Kentucky Cavalry, and Twenty-eighth Kentucky Mounted Infantry.

On the 30th, I reached Columbia, from which point I sent the Third Kentucky Cavalry down the north bank of Duck River to scour the country bordering that river on the north to the Tennessee River, and to watch that stream from the mouth of Duck River to a point opposite Fort Henry. The Fifth Kentucky Cavalry was ordered down the south bank of Duck River to clear the country to the Tennessee, and to watch that stream from the mouth of Duck River to Savannah, where this regiment was to communicate with me and receive further orders.

The object of these movements was to clear the country of the bands of guerrillas that infested it, and to watch any attempt that Forrest, who was then at Jackson, Tenn., might make to throw his force, or any portion of it, over into Middle Tennessee or Kentucky.

These regiments captured some 50 guerrillas, and among them the notorious Colonel Hawkins.

The Third Kentucky Cavalry reported back at Nashville, according to its instructions, and the Fifth Kentucky met my command at Waynesborough and accompanied it from that point. The Twenty-eighth Kentucky Mounted Infantry was ordered from Columbia to Pulaski, Tenn., where it reported to General Crook, and was assigned to duty with the Second Cavalry Division under his command, agreeably to my instructions.

General Crook sent the Fourth U. S. Cavalry as escort to a supply train, which I ordered him to send through with rations for my command, from Pulaski to Savannah. He also sent the Seventy-second Indiana Mounted Infantry through from Pulaski to Savannah to open communication with that point, and hold the ferry-boats there until the arrival of the command.

Upon reaching the Tennessee River, the whole command, consisting of the Second, Third, and Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, Fifth Kentucky Cavalry, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, and Seventy-second Indiana Mounted Infantry, was thrown across the river and moved toward Corinth, which point we reached on the 8th day of January. Forrest had moved southward into Mississippi before my command reached the Tennessee River, urged to this step by the movement of the troops of the Sixteenth Army Corps upon him.

Orders had been issued to abandon the railroad from Memphis to Corinth, and I moved my command to Collierville, where I awaited the arrival of Waring's brigade from Columbus, from which point it was ordered to move to join our other [cavalry*] forces. Owing to bad roads and the freshets, which made the crossing of the streams extremely difficult, especially that of the Obion River, this brigade was delayed, and only reached Collierville on Monday, the 8th day of February.

For full particulars of this march, I beg leave to refer to Colonel Waring's report. Much of its ammunition had been sent by boats from Columbus, and it was encumbered by a train which had to be got rid of. By great effort the whole command was prepared for the movement and put in motion on the 11th day of February.

Forrest had taken position with all his forces behind the Tallahatchie River, determined to resist our crossing. I threw McMil-

* According to report of April 3.

len's brigade of infantry, temporarily assigned to my command, rapidly toward Panola, from Memphis, moving this brigade on the 8th day of February, and on the 11th ordered it to move toward Wyatt, toward which point I directed the march of my whole cavalry force, until the impression was made that I intended forcing a crossing at that point, which I attacked with the brigade of infantry and attracted the attention and forces of the enemy there while I threw my whole cavalry force around by way of New Albany, where I crossed the Tallahatchie without firing a shot, although we were delayed a whole day at the crossing of Tippah Creek, that was swollen by a freshet. We then moved rapidly on Pontotoc and Houston.

When within 10 miles of Houston we encountered an outpost of the enemy, consisting of State troops, under General Gholson. These stampeded and ran away, leaving a portion of their arms behind them. We continued to advance until we encountered the enemy in strong force guarding the crossing of a swamp, which could only be passed by a corduroy road, that was narrow and about 1 mile in length. This we carried after some sharp fighting, and our advance pressed on to the crossing of the Houlka Swamp, 3 miles north of Houston [this swamp extends from a point 10 miles west of Houston to the*], at the junction of the Houlka with the Oktibbeha, near West Point, and can only be crossed at a few points over narrow roads.

These roads were held by the enemy in force, and while our advance was directed to make a determined attack on the force holding the direct road to Houston, the main body was moved rapidly to the eastward on Okolona, where it arrived so unexpectedly as to capture a number of rebel officers and men on furlough.

From this point a regiment was thrown forward by a forced march to Aberdeen to endeavor to seize ferry-boats to effect a crossing of the Tombigbee if this should prove desirable, but no ferry-boats were found.

The following morning one brigade was moved to the support of this regiment and to threaten Columbus, while two brigades moved down the railroad toward West Point, throwing out strong detachments to make feints and watch the crossings of the Sakatonchee, on our right, and destroy the road as they went, together with vast amounts of corn that was collected in cribs near the railroad. They also destroyed all the Confederate cotton that was found. The brigade that went to Aberdeen did the same, and also destroyed a very extensive tannery, together with about 2,000 hides.

Hearing that the enemy was concentrating in heavy force at West Point, I concentrated my command at Prairie Station, 15 miles north of West Point, and moved on that place on the 20th day of February. About 1 mile north of the town we encountered a rebel brigade, which we drove after a short, sharp fight. The whole command arrived near West Point at about 3 p. m., and careful reconnaissances were made of the Sakatonchee Swamp on our right, the Oktibbeha on our front, and the Tombigbee on our left. They were all found strongly held by the enemy, present in four brigades and to the number of about 6,000 or 7,000, according to the best information that could be obtained.

Exaggerated reports of Forrest's strength reached me constantly, and it was reported that Lee was about to re-enforce him with a por-

* According to report of April 3.

tion or the whole of his command. Columbus had been evacuated, and all the State troops that could be assembled from every quarter were drawn together at my front to hold the Oktibbeha against me, while a heavy force was seen moving to my rear.

About 3,000 able-bodied negroes had taken refuge with us, mounted on as many horses and mules that they had brought in with them. We had in addition to this about 700 pack-mules, and all these incumbrances had to be strongly guarded against the flank attacks that were constantly threatened. This absorbed about 2,000 of my available force. There remained a little less than 5,000 men who could be thrown into action.

The enemy was in a position in my front and on my flanks which afforded him every advantage. The ground was so obstructed as to make it absolutely necessary that we should fight dismounted, and for this kind of fighting the enemy, armed with Enfield and Austrian rifles, was better prepared than our force, armed mainly with carbines. There was but one of my brigades that I could rely upon with full confidence. The conduct of the other two on the march had been such as to indicate such a lack of discipline as to create in my mind the most serious apprehensions as to what would be their conduct in action. Any reverse to my command, situated as it was, would have been fatal.

I was ten days late with my movement owing to the delay of Waring's brigade in arriving from Columbus, and had every reason to believe that General Sherman, having accomplished the purposes of his expedition, had returned to Vicksburg. Under the circumstances I determined not to move my encumbered command into the trap set for me by the rebels.

We had destroyed 2,000,000 bushels of corn, 2,000 bales of Confederate cotton, and 30 miles of railroad. We had captured about 200 prisoners, and 3,000 horses and mules, and rescued as many negroes, well fitted for our service. I therefore determined to move back and draw the enemy after me, that I might select my own positions and fight with the advantages in our favor.

In this I succeeded perfectly, disposing my forces behind every crest of a hill and in every skirt of timber that furnished us cover, and receiving the enemy by well-directed volleys at short range we inflicted heavy losses upon him at every attack, while our own casualties were uniformly light, until we reached Okolona, where, after the Fourth Regulars had driven one entire rebel brigade out of the town three times, a portion of McCrillis' brigade, sent to the support of the Fourth, stampeded at the yells of our own men charging, and galloped back through and over everything, spreading confusion wherever they went and driving Perkins' battery of six small mountain howitzers off the road into a ditch, where the imperfect carriages they were mounted upon were all so broken that we could not get the battery along and had to abandon it after spiking the guns, chopping the carriages to pieces, and destroying the ammunition. Organized forces were immediately thrown to the rear and the enemy handsomely repulsed.

Skirmishing continued about 10 miles, when we reached a fine position at Ivey's farm. Here the ridge spread out into a wide, open field, along the northern margin of which I deployed a line of dismounted men consisting of four regiments. A battery was placed in position near the road, from which it could enfilade the column as

it advanced. Just to the right of the battery the Fourth Missouri Cavalry [and six companies of the Seventh Indiana Cavalry*] were formed, and mounted for a saber charge, and the Third Tennessee Cavalry (mounted) was sent to the extreme right with orders to charge in flank when the troops made the direct charge in front.

While these dispositions were being made the enemy pressed our rear guard, that was well posted, very heavily, and were sorely handled. The rear guard was at last called off rapidly, and the rebel column let into the space prepared for them, when the battery opened upon them in very handsome style, and the dismounted troops poured volley after volley into them. They pressed their attack with great determination, but at last fell back. Just as they began to retire they were charged very handsomely by the Fourth Missouri and Seventh Indiana in front and by the Third Tennessee in flank. This completely routed them, and they were driven from the field with heavy loss.

It was reported that Colonel Forrest, brother to the general, commander of a brigade, and Colonel Barksdale fell, and McCulloch, another commander of a brigade, and Colonel Barteau were severely wounded in this affair.

Strong detachments were thrown out upon our flanks at every vulnerable point, and every attempt to cut our column by a flank attack was met and thwarted. Our march was so rapid that the enemy could not outstrip and intercept us, which he constantly endeavored to do.

No heavy fighting occurred after we passed the Ivey farm, though skirmishing continued as far as Pontotoc. I then moved back to Memphis with everything that we had captured, content with the very great injury we had inflicted upon them, and feeling that everything had been achieved that was at all practicable under the circumstances.

My orders from General Sherman were so comprehensive as to embrace everything that it would be possible for me to do, and I could not regard them as imperative that I should make a junction with his forces at all hazards, but on the contrary, he expressly stated that he could get along without me if I found it impossible to get through.

Returning, I drew the enemy after me and inflicted heavy losses upon him, and saved my command, with all our captured stock and prisoners and rescued negroes, with very trifling losses except in stragglers captured.

Attempting to cut through to Sherman I would have lost my entire command, and of course could have rendered him no assistance.

The conduct of the entire Second Brigade, under Colonel Hepburn, was worthy of all praise. This brigade consists of the Second Iowa Cavalry, Major Coon commanding; Sixth Illinois Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Starr commanding; Seventh Illinois Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Trafton commanding, [and Ninth Illinois Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Burgh commanding*]. All these officers acquitted themselves most creditably. The Fourth Missouri Cavalry, Major Heinrichs commanding; the Third Tennessee Cavalry, Major Minnis commanding, and the Seventh Indiana Cavalry, Colonel Shanks commanding, also made brilliant charges, while the Fourth

*According to report of April 3.

Regulars, under Captain Bowman, charged a whole rebel brigade three times, and routed it at every charge.

Captain Bowman and Lieutenant Davis were particularly distinguished for their gallantry. Lieut. W. H. Ingerton, who acted as my assistant adjutant-general, led the charge of the Third Tennessee most brilliantly, and was uniformly distinguished by his skill and dashing bravery.

[All the officers here referred to deserve promotion, and the interests of the service would be promoted by their advancement to higher rank. They are brave, skillful, and valuable cavalry officers.*]

General Grierson's conduct was worthy of all praise. [Whenever there was anything to be done he was sure to be found. His skill in managing cavalry movements and in handling commands in action was obvious and admirable.*]

Information since obtained fully justifies the decision to retire before Forrest's force from West Point. General Sherman's expeditionary force had withdrawn from Meridian before my arrival at West Point, on a line that could not have been known to me, cut off as I was from any communication with him. Forrest's force is ascertained to have been rather above than below my estimate. Chalmers was moving with two brigades by way of Houston to my rear, while Lee, with from 3,000 to 4,000 men, was ordered up to join Forrest in my front.

The country south of West Point and Houston abounds in swamps and streams, extremely difficult to cross when the defiles leading to and over them were held by an enemy. The incumbrances which already overburdened me would [have] increased and it was impossible to shake them off, and, involved in an exceedingly intricate and obstructed country, I would have been compelled to contend thus encumbered with a force numerically largely superior to my own; and, looking back upon the movement, I would in no way have been justifiable in moving at the time appointed without the whole force which I was ordered to take. [By an unexpected contingency the requirements of my orders became incompatible, and I was compelled to adopt the wiser alternative†.] Had I moved with the Second and Third Brigades only, I would have had less than 5,000 men instead of full 7,000, and would have had the odds largely against me from the moment I dropped the infantry brigade and crossed the Tallahatchie River, and, meeting with disaster, would have been subjected to deserved censure.

The brigade moved from Columbus under orders not my own, and for its delay I am in nowise responsible.

This much I feel constrained to write in the nature of a defense for the sake of my command, as it must participate in the mortification of a supposed failure, when we bear with us the consciousness of success and duty well performed.

I have the honor to inclose herewith the report of Brig. Gen. B. H. Grierson, second in command, as also those of the brigade and regimental commanders, to which I beg leave to refer for lists of casualties from which the following recapitulation is prepared: Killed, 47; wounded, 152; missing, 120; total casualties, 319.‡

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* Not in report of April 3.

† According to report of April 3.

‡ But see revised statement, p. 194.

A full list of the prisoners captured, about 200, is in course of preparation, and will be forwarded as soon as it can be completed.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

WM. SOOY SMITH,
*Brig. Gen., Chief of Cavalry, Mil. Div. of the Mississippi.*

Lieut. Col. R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
*Nashville, Tenn., April* 9, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, at Washington.

I have heretofore reported on this case, and can now only add that General Smith should have moved on time at any and every risk. His instructions here* are as specific as could possibly have been made before the occurrence of the events.

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

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No. 36.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, of expedition from Memphis, with itinerary of the division for February and March.*

HDQRS. CAVALRY DIVISION, 16TH ARMY CORPS,
*Memphis, Tenn., March* 19, 1864.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor herewith to transmit the official reports of the regimental and brigade commanders of the part taken by their respective commands in the late expedition to West Point, Miss., and return.

By direction of General William Sooy Smith, myself and staff marched with the Second Brigade, commanded by Lieut. Col. W. P. Hepburn, for the movements of which I refer you to his report, herewith inclosed. This brigade composed the column marching upon the extreme right during a portion of the trip; consequently I could not control the movements of the other two columns, that on the left being at times 30 miles away.

During the expedition I sent detachments and secured the ferry over the Tombigbee River at Cotton Gin, and also at Aberdeen. At this latter place I ordered a bridge prepared in case it should be deemed advisable to cross; otherwise it would serve as a demonstration to mislead the enemy as to our real intentions. The bridge would have been finished in about three hours, when I received orders from General Smith to move with the Second Brigade westward to Prairie Station.

I beg leave to bear testimony to the gallantry displayed by both officers and men as far as they came under my notice. The cause of

*Reference is to instructions of January 27, appended to Smith's report. See Sherman's inclosure No. 3, p. 181.

the stampede of certain regiments of the Third Brigade near Okolona is unknown to me. These regiments afterward, however, redeemed themselves and proved worthy of confidence.

The members of my staff, Capt. S. L. Woodward, assistant adjutant-general; Capt. O. S. Coffin, assistant quartermaster; Lieut. J. M. Caldwell, acting ordnance officer, and Lieuts. A. W. McClure and J. K. Catlin, aides-de-camp, were untiring in their exertions, not only during the expedition, but in preparing it for the march. With the limited means at hand, and from the fact that supplies which had been estimated for months since had never been received, unusual exertions were necessary in order to put the command in an efficient condition. The duties of these officers, particularly of the adjutant, quartermaster, and ordnance officer, were extremely onerous, and I take pleasure in stating that they proved themselves equal to the emergency.

Lieut. J. K. Catlin was captured by the enemy on the 22d, while in the gallant discharge of his duty.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. H. GRIERSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieut. W. H. INGERTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*Itinerary of the Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, for February and March.**

During the month the First Division marched from Union City to Colliersville, Tenn., from which point it operated with the whole division, under the immediate control of Brig. Gen. W. Sooy Smith.

February 20, the advance of the division engaged the enemy near West Point, and drove him with heavy loss across the Sakatonchee River.

February 21, we started upon our return to Memphis, the enemy under Generals Lee and Forrest following. We engaged them on the 21st, 22d, and 23d, each day choosing our positions and allowing them to come upon us. In each attack the enemy was repulsed with fearful loss.

February 26, the division arrived safely back to the line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, having destroyed 30 miles of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, an immense amount of Confederate corn, cotton, and other property, and having brought in about 200 prisoners, and about 1,500 negroes and the same number of mules.

The troops of this division have been engaged during the month of March in scouting and patrolling from the post of Memphis; no important engagement has occurred. Owing to the re-enlistment as veterans of three-fourths of all regiments in this division which were eligible, the effective force has been much reduced.

During the month the Second Iowa, Second, Third, Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Illinois, and the Fourth Missouri Cavalry have re-enlisted for the new term of three years.

* From monthly returns.

The Third Michigan and Seventh Kansas Cavalry, which were re-enlisted and sent home in the early part of February, have not yet returned.

Owing to the scarcity in the supply of horses to this division, the effective strength of the command is reduced to less than 2,000. Only 1,500 horses have been furnished during the last ten months.

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No. 37.

*Reports of Col. George E. Waring, jr., Fourth Missouri Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Brigade, of operations January 22–February 27.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., CAVALRY DIV., 16TH ARMY CORPS,
*Collierville, Tenn., February* 10, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to the order of the chief of cavalry, Military Division of the Mississippi, I respectfully forward the following report of the march of my command from Union City, Tenn., to this post:

In obedience to the order of Brig. Gen. A. J. Smith, commanding Sixth Division, Sixteenth Corps (copy inclosed marked A), I marched my command from Union City at daybreak, January 22. The Troy Bottom, which surrounds Union City, was almost impassable and I waited within 2 miles of my starting-place until my supply train had got through it (2 p. m.). I then started for Sharp's Ferry of the Obion River. I found the next 4 miles of the way very bad, and many wagons stuck fast in the mud. Leaving my quartermaster in charge of the train, I pushed on to a point 4 miles from Sharp's Ferry, 13 miles from Union City, passing nearly the whole train on the road. Here I halted for the night, sending orders forward to Colonel Kargé to commence crossing the command immediately. I sent a party back to press all the teams in the country and send them back to lighten the supply train.

By 10 a. m. of January 23, I received information that the train was over the worst of the road, and I marched on to the ferry (23 miles from Union City), reaching there about 4 p. m. I found the rope of the ferry broken and the boat swamped in the ice, with which the river was entirely choked. The ice was cut away and the river freed. At 7 p. m. the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry was nearly all across. The pioneer corps (120 men) of the provost guard (2 companies, Fourth Missouri Cavalry) and the battalion of the Second Illinois Cavalry had crossed before. Seeing that everything was going on well, I crossed the river at 9 p. m. with my staff and orderlies, and started for the camp of the advance, 5 miles from the ferry, intending to decide on the road to be taken and send the pioneers forward to repair the road.

I found the road for 3 miles from the ferry (through the bottom) almost impassable for wagons and even difficult for cavalry, on account of the depth of water in the sloughs. In one place, for about 50 yards, the water was from 2 to 4 feet deep and filled with large cakes of broken ice, which caused the horses and men to fall at every few steps. I sent word to the commanding officer of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry not to attempt to cross the bottom until daylight. As the whole bottom was covered with water and it

was impossible to see the road in the night, I marched 14 miles instead of 5 and reached camp (Porter's farm) at 4 a. m. January 24. I immediately ordered out scouting parties toward Jackson and Ripley to learn the character of the roads and river crossings by the two routes. It was subsequently reported that the road via Ripley was good all the way through, and that the road from Trenton to Jackson was impassable.

During the night of the 23d and the day following, the whole Seventh Indiana crossed with its ambulances. By this time the river had risen to such an extent that the horses had to be landed in 3 feet of water.

During the night of the 24th and until noon of the 25th, we were trying to establish a new ferry farther down the river, but the constant rising of the river rendered this impossible.

As Colonel Kargé was cut off from all possibility of communicating with me, except by Colonel Shanks, of the Seventh Indiana Cavalry, who was the last man to cross, he sent me word by him that he would go back to Jacksonville, and thence by Dresden and Huntingdon to Jackson, unless he heard from me again. This state of affairs compelled me to take an easterly route, and rendered it impossible for me to go down west of the railroad without great loss of time.

At 8 p. m. of the 25th, I left camp with a small escort and marched 14 miles (to within 11 miles of Trenton), when I met the Second Illinois Cavalry, which I had sent to that place to examine the roads, and I encamped for the night.

That part of my command which had crossed the river marched early on the 26th, and encamped that night 4 miles north of Trenton. I arrived in Trenton early in the day, and immediately instituted inquiries about the roads over which the train might come from Dresden.

On the morning of the 27th, the column came up and I ordered Colonel Shanks, Seventh Indiana Cavalry, to proceed with his own regiment and the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry to Mount Pinson, on the south fork of the Forked Deer; there to leave the Nineteenth Pennsylvania to hold the bridge, and to go on with the Seventh Indiana Cavalry to Bolivar, on the Hatchie; there to make a bridge or ferry, and to hold the same for the command to cross. The Second Illinois Cavalry I sent to Rodgers' Mill, on the middle fork of the Forked Deer, there to hold the bridge and to collect provisions for the remainder of the command.

I marched with the pioneer corps and the squadron of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry to Parker's Ferry, over the south fork of the Obion, 12 miles southwest from Dresden, and crossed the pioneer corps the same night, with orders to report at once to Colonel Kargé, and to bring through the train under his orders. I encamped at the ferry.

January 28, I sent a staff officer to communicate with Colonel Kargé and to inform him of the character of the roads by that ferry, and to tell him to use his best discretion as to which course he would take. He decided to go by the way of Huntingdon as the road had dried up and the bottom at Parker's Ferry was very heavy. I received his decision on the 29th of January.

January 30, I marched toward Spring Creek, where Colonel Kargé was to communicate with me, and encamped for the night near Lavinia, 4 miles north of Spring Creek.

January 31, marched to Spring Creek, and met a messenger from Colonel Kargé with dispatches stating that he was then 6 miles southwest from Huntingdon, and that the train had not yet reached Huntingdon, as the very heavy rains of two previous nights had rendered the roads almost impassable and had so swollen the streams as to wash away the bridges. He also informed me that he had unloaded ten baggage wagons and sent them back to lighten the train. Thinking that a better road from Huntingdon to Mount Pinson might be found than that via Spring Creek (which I knew to be very bad), I went on the 1st of February to Colonel Kargé's camp, 21 miles distant, and made diligent inquiry, only to find that there was no other way to go. Seeing that Colonel Kargé was doing all that was possible to expedite matters, I returned on the same day to Spring Creek, where I was informed on my arrival that the road to Mount Pinson was almost if not absolutely impassable.

February 2, I marched with a small escort via Jackson to Mount Pinson with a view to examining the bottom beyond Jackson, having previously sent the Second Illinois Cavalry by the direct road, and left orders for Colonel Kargé to take that road unless otherwise ordered. I found the bottom at Jackson almost impassable for cavalry, and absolutely so for wagons.

February 3, I sent forward the Nineteenth Pennsylvania with orders to report to Colonel Shanks on the south side of the Hatchie River, and waited at Mount Pinson until five wagons of the supply train loaded with 3,500 rations came up under a small escort. With these I pushed on via Medon to Bolivar, arriving at noon of the 4th instant. The boat which had been built by Colonel Shanks' command had been found to be imperfect and was being repaired.

February 5, the boat was made ready during the night, and the troops which had come up with me crossed during the day, though owing to the leaky condition of the boat only 8 horses could be crossed at a time. Toward evening Colonel Kargé arrived with his command, having left the supply train 10 miles in his rear under a strong guard. The crossing was continued all night, and was effected without serious aacident.

February 6, the crossing of the troops and of the supply train occupied the whole day, and in the evening the remaining rations were issued to the command, which had now come together for the first time since January 23.

February 7, marched the whole command at 6.30 a. m. via Somerville to Thorpe's farm, 3 miles north of Macon, where all encamped at sunset, except the supply and baggage train with the Seventh Indiana Cavalry as escort, which had only reached Somerville.

February 8, marched to Collierville in obedience to orders received at Bolivar from Brigadier-General Grierson, the head of the column arriving at 1 p. m., and the train escorted by the Third Tennessee Cavalry arriving after night-fall.

The supply train was a heavy incumbrance during the whole march, and caused at least a week's delay, while it was of very little use to the main column, which lived off of the country nearly all the time and could have done so entirely.

The whole distance made by the train was about 220 miles, and the whole time consumed was eighteen days. Had it not been for the sudden thaw which rendered the Obion River impassable, we could have come by the way of Ripley, only 120 miles. and would have

made the march in eight days, as the road was comparatively good and the river crossings in tolerable condition.

Attention is respectfully called to the report of Col. J. P. C. Shanks, Seventh Indiana Cavalry (marked B*), which contains all that is of much importance containing the trifling engagements with guerrillas on the road, and an account of the brilliant little affair at La Grange, where Lieutenant Grebe, of my staff, bearing dispatches, with his small escort defeated a considerable force of the enemy; also to the reports of the other commanding officers of the brigade, which (excepting slight geographical inaccuracies) will give you a correct idea of the difficulties of the march.

The Seventh Indiana Cavalry was brigaded with my command while it lay at Hickman, and was ordered to join me on the march. Had this not been the case, the large fragment now at Hickman would have been here for duty, and the regiment would have been in better condition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. WARING, JR.,
*Colonel Fourth Missouri Cavalry, Commanding Brigade.*

Lieut. W. H. INGERTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure A.]

HDQRS. CAVALRY DIVISION, SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Columbus, Ky., January* 21, 1864.

Col. GEORGE E. WARING,
*Comdg. Cavalry Brigade, Union City, Tenn.:*

SIR: You will proceed with all possible dispatch with your cavalry brigade to Moscow, on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, west of Grand Junction, by the shortest and most practicable route west of Columbus and Corinth road, and report your arrival at that point to Major-General Hurlbut, or commanding officer at Memphis, for further instructions.

You will be guided by the condition in which you find the streams and roads as to what road you will take after crossing the Obion. I hope you will reach the point designated as soon as practicable and in good condition for further march.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. SMITH,
*Brigadier-General.*

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HDQRS. 1ST BRIG., CAVALRY DIV., 16TH ARMY CORPS,
*Camp Grierson, Tenn., March* 7, 1864.

Report of the march of the First Brigade, Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, from Collierville, Tenn., to West Point, Miss., and back to Memphis, Tenn.:

February 11, in obedience to the order of Brig. Gen. W. Sooy Smith, chief of cavalry, this brigade, consisting of the Seventh Indiana, Fourth Missouri, Second New Jersey, Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and five companies of the Second Illinois Cavalry, marched from Collierville at 2 p. m., and encamped at 6 p. m. on the farm of Colonel McLean, 11 miles out on the Moscow road. By the

*See p. 272.

order of Brigadier-General Smith, a train from Memphis was to have met us at this place, with forage for night and morning and the remaining supplies which were required to fit out the brigade for the expedition. This train failed to arrive.

February 12, the train from Memphis arrived at 10.30 a. m., and the supplies and forage were issued immediately. At 2 p. m. the brigade marched, arriving at Hudsonville, 23 miles distant, at 11 p. m. Here orders were received to proceed immediately to Walker's Mills, 3 miles east of Holly Springs, there to await further instructions from the chief of cavalry. At midnight the brigade marched again.

February 13, having marched all night, the brigade reached Walker's Mills at 10 a. m., having made 16 miles. A detachment of the Second Illinois Cavalry was immediately sent to Callahan's Mills, where the chief of cavalry was reported to be encamped, to report the position of the brigade and receive further instructions. No orders were received during the day.

February 14, remained in camp at Walker's Mills expecting every moment orders to march. At 5 p. m. a messenger arrived from Colonel McCrillis, at New Albany, communicating General Grierson's order for my brigade to proceed immediately to that point. This order, instead of coming direct from General Grierson's headquarters, about 15 miles distant, had first gone to New Albany and then come back to me. This delay caused more than a day's detention of my command. At the time when the order was received foraging parties were out, night was approaching, and it was raining heavily.

February 15, the brigade marched at daylight, and at 9 a. m. reached Beck's Spring Ferry, over the Tippah River, 7 miles distant. The ferry-boat was found to be very small and in a very unsafe condition. It being impossible to cross the command by this means, and the ford, which is usually very good, being impassable, owing to the great rise and rapid current of the river, it was necessary to build a bridge of 65 feet span before the command could be crossed. At 3 p. m. a bridge was completed, but as the river was still rising and the center of the bridge was necessarily under water, it was nearly daylight the next morning before the whole brigade was encamped on the other side of the river.

February 16, marched at 8 a. m. for New Albany, 22 miles distant. Owing to the very bad character of a large portion of the road, although six wagons were abandoned and destroyed, it was impossible to reach the Tallahatchie River before 8 p. m., when the whole command, except a portion of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, immediately crossed the river and proceeded to a point 4 miles south of New Albany, on the Pontotoc road, where it encamped. The Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, excepting 100 men, was ordered to return to Memphis in charge of prisoners.

February 17, marched at 5 a. m. and reached the headquarters of Brigadier-General Grierson, commanding division, 7 miles distant, on the Pontotoc road, at 8 a. m. Ordered by General Grierson to go 2 or 3 miles ahead and feed. I went on with the head of the column 2½ miles, to the farm of Parson Smith. When only one regiment of my brigade had passed the headquarters of General Grierson, the remainder were ordered by General Smith to turn out of the road and allow the other brigades to take the advance. At 2 p. m., the Second and Third Brigades having passed, this brigade fell in

their rear and marched to a point 9 miles the other side of Pontotoc, where it was ordered to encamp. The whole distance marched this day was 25 miles.

February 18, ordered to march at 6 a. m. Started at that hour and received an order to halt and allow the Second Brigade to take the advance, which occupied two hours. At the end of this time, the road being clear, started again and marched via Red Land to Okolona, where we arrived at 4 p. m., when the chief of cavalry ordered that this brigade march on the road toward Egypt Station to a suitable camping-place, and that parties be sent out to destroy such property along the line of the railroad as might belong to the rebel Government and to destroy the railroad itself.

As the column was marching from Okolona and was 2 miles distant therefrom the head of the column was fired upon by a party of the enemy, apparently about 20 or 30 strong, who fled on being pursued. In the night the pioneer corps and a detachment of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania were sent to destroy the railroad and Government supplies as far as Egypt Station, 8 miles south of Okolona. Distance marched this day, 23 miles. In the evening of this day the following order was received:

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY DIVISION, DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
*Okolona, February* 18, 1864.

COLONEL: The general directs that you will move your brigade promptly at daylight to-morrow morning on the road leading to West Point via Egypt Station, leaving one battalion at Okolona with orders to send one company 5 or 6 miles out on the road leading north toward Corinth, and one company about the same distance on the road to Camargo. As you proceed throw forces over on the railroad to destroy it and Government stores, if any such there be collected. The general will accompany your column, escorted by the Fourth U. S. Cavalry.

I am, colonel, yours, very respectfully,

WM. H. INGERTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

February 19, at daybreak, the brigade marched on the road to Egypt Station, excepting one battalion of the Seventh Indiana Cavalry, which was left at Okolona as ordered, and which subsequently joined the brigade. The brigade arrived at Egypt Station between 8 and 9 a. m., and destroyed the Government property at and near the station. I here learned that there were two roads leading to West Point, one across the prairie, about a mile west of Egypt Station, and one passing around on drier ground about a mile to the right of Aberdeen. I selected the latter road as being more strictly in accordance with the letter of my orders and less difficult to travel, though somewhat longer. After proceeding 4 miles from Egypt Station, I was ordered by General Smith to return and take the prairie road, and by that road the brigade reached Prairie Station at 6 p. m., the head of the column having had several trifling skirmishes in the course of the day. Distance marched, 22 miles.

February 20, marched at 9 a. m. in rear of the Second Brigade. Arrived at West Point at 3 p. m. with the command in excellent condition, the horses having had plenty of forage and the men cheered by the prospect of meeting the enemy in an open country. Distance marched, 9 miles.

February 21, ordered to return to Okolona. Marched at 9 a. m., following the Third Brigade. Received frequent reports of attacks on the rear of the Second Brigade, which was following us, and at

3 p. m. halted at a plantation 4 miles north of Prairie Station, where the Second Illinois, Fourth Missouri, and Second New Jersey Cavalry made a demonstration to the right, checking a body of the enemy which was attempting to flank the whole column by a movement along the railroad. Remained in this position until the Second Brigade had closed up, and then proceeded, by order of Brigadier-General Grierson, to the camp of the division, about 3 miles south of Okolona.

February 22, marched about 9 a. m. on the Pontotoc road, preceded by the Second Brigade and followed by the Third. On passing to the left of Okolona, the Seventh Indiana Cavalry, which formed the rear of the brigade, was ordered to fall out and support the Fourth U. S. Cavalry, which had been stationed at the edge of the town to watch the movements of the enemy. At a point about 5 miles west of Okolona a message was received from the rear to the effect that the Fourth U. S. Cavalry had found the enemy too strong and had been forced to retire with much loss, and that the Seventh Indiana Cavalry and the whole of the Third Brigade had been unable to resist the onward march of the enemy, and were retreating upon the main column. I immediately formed my brigade in line, with skirmishers far out on each flank, and remained in this position until the Third Brigade had passed through, portions of it in such confusion as to endanger the morale of my own command. I was then ordered to fall back to a stronger position, about a mile to my rear, where the Second New Jersey, Fourth Missouri, and Second Illinois Cavalry again formed in line. This position was gallantly held by the Second New Jersey and Second Illinois Cavalry against a sharp attack until the Seventh Indiana and the Fourth Missouri Cavalry fell to the rear within a line formed by the Second Brigade. These regiments then followed, and a new position in the rear of the whole command was selected on a farm called Ivey's Hill, near Tallaboncla. Before the Seventh Indiana and Fourth Missouri Cavalry, with its battery, could be fairly placed in position the other brigades were seen to be retiring, and the immense train of pack-mules and mounted contrabands, which had been corraled in a field near the road, swarmed up with such force as to carry past the line the Second New Jersey and the Second Illinois Cavalry, which were then marching to this position. Several regiments of the other brigades were brought to a stand at this place, and the chief of cavalry in person assumed command of the field. The enemy followed our retiring forces very closely, and soon attacked us with heavy musketry fire, which was replied to with good effect by the battery of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry, one shell from which is reported to have killed Colonel Forrest, brother of General Forrest, who in person was commanding the enemy's column. As the enemy approached more closely General Smith ordered the Fourth Missouri Cavalry to charge with sabers. This charge was brilliantly made in the face of a galling fire; but, owing to a high rail-fence between our position and that of the enemy, was without effect except as a diversion. Finding that the charge was useless, the troops broke to the rear and retreated at great speed, but were rallied by their officers on the line of original formation (behind the battery), without the loss of a single straggler. At the end of an hour, the enemy having been held in check sufficiently long for the pack train and disorganized regiments to be withdrawn to a place of safety, the brigade was ordered by the commanding general to retire, a movement which

was attended with no little difficulty, inasmuch as the enemy had so far flanked our position as to jeopardize the safety of the battery of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry, which was only withdrawn under cover of a desperate and brilliant charge by a portion of the Seventh Indiana Cavalry and subsequently of two detachments of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry; one piece of the battery having a broken wheel and two ammunition carts with broken shafts were necessarily abandoned to the enemy, the gun being first spiked. In the evening the whole division marched to within 2½ miles of Pontotoc, where several hours were spent in reorganizing the different commands.

February 23, ordered to take the advance and march without delay to Memphis. About noon reached New Albany, on the Tallahatchie River, where General Grierson ordered me to send immediately the Second Illinois and the Seventh Indiana Cavalry to the rear to assist the Second Brigade. The Second New Jersey Cavalry was stationed on the north side of the river as sharpshooters, and the Fourth Missouri Cavalry, with its battery, on the hill still farther north overlooking the river. This position was occupied until the entire Second and Third Brigades, with the pack train and contrabands, had passed on. I was then ordered to leave my pack train with the Third Brigade, and to march my command immediately to Memphis. When I was fairly started I was ordered to receive and escort the contraband negroes who were escaping with the division. Being again under way, about 7 p. m. I was ordered to receive and escort the entire baggage train of the three brigades. About midnight the command reached the plantation of Mr. Graham, 12 miles from New Albany, where we halted to close up and put the train in the advance.

February 24, marched at 4.30 a. m., crossed the Tippah River by the bridge and ford near Beck's Spring, and reached the vicinity of Hudsonville about 9 o'clock in the evening.

February 25, marched at 7 a. m., proceeded about half a mile when the head of the column was fired into by a party of guerrillas and 1 man killed and 2 wounded. At Hudsonville received an order to halt and allow the other brigades to take the advance. Subsequently received another order to keep the advance and proceed to Collierville, there to repair the bridge across Wolf River, and in the event of the railroad not being in running condition, to cross my command and forage on the country. Arrived at Collierville at 4 p. m. and found the railroad destroyed.

February 26, there being no other means of procuring forage, marched across Wolf River and proceeded to within about 12 miles of Memphis before forage could be found in any considerable quantity. Encamped here for the night.

February 27, crossed Shelby Ferry and encamped at the Fair Ground, 4 miles from Memphis, on the Charleston Railroad. On reporting for orders to Brigadier-General Grierson, commanding the division, was directed to remain in this camp, and draw supplies from Memphis.

The detachment of 100 men of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, under Major Holahan, was detailed very early in the expedition to guard the prisoners, which duty they continued to perform until its close, bringing safely to Memphis all of the prisoners taken by the entire command excepting 1, who was killed in attempt-

ing to escape. At times during the excitement of the retreat, the performance of this duty required great care and coolness.

The losses of this brigade in the various engagements were as follows, to wit: Fourth Missouri Cavalry—men killed, 6; wounded, 4; missing, 4; total, 14. Second New Jersey Cavalry—1 captain and 2 lieutenants wounded, 1 lieutenant taken prisoner; men wounded, 6; missing, 2; total, 12. Second Illinois Cavalry—men killed, 1; wounded, 1; missing, 1; total, 3. Seventh Indiana Cavalry—3 commissioned officers wounded and taken prisoners, 2 commissioned officers wounded; men killed, 11; wounded, 32; missing, 36; total, 84. Total loss of First Brigade, killed, wounded, and missing, 113.*

Between Okolona and West Point the following stores belonging to the enemy are estimated to have been destroyed by this brigade: 250 bales of cotton, marked C. S. A.; 200,000 bushels of corn in Government pens; 280 sacks of shelled corn; 100 sacks of corn meal in Government store-houses; also 2 cases of English muskets and an assorted lot of commissary stores in the station-house at Egypt.

Fifteen bridges and culverts were burned, and the track was destroyed in more than twenty different places between Okolona and Prairie Station.

Very respectfully,

GEO. E. WARING, JR.,
*Colonel Fourth Missouri Cavalry, Commanding.*

Capt. S. L. WOODWARD,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 38.

*Reports of Capt. Franklin Moore, Second Illinois Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 27.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
*Collierville, Tenn., February* 10, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with orders, I forward my report of the march from Union City, Tenn., to Collierville, Tenn.:

I left Union City, Tenn., on the morning of the 22d of January, 1864, and marched to within 3 miles of Sharp's Ferry.

23d, left Sharp's Ferry and crossed Obion River at sunrise. Found 3 miles of bottom land overflowed; nearly impossible to bring wagons through it. Camped at Porter's farm until the morning of the 26th, waiting the coming up of the column.

26th, left Porter's farm and marched to Trenton and camped.

27th, left Trenton and marched to Rodgers' Mill, Spring Creek, and encamped.

28th, sent out foraging party to collect all salt provisions that could be found; also started the mill grinding meal for the brigade, which we kept up until the morning of the 2d of February.

2d, left Spring Creek and marched to Mount Pinson, a distance of 20 miles, and encamped.

3d, left Mount Pinson and marched to Medon and encamped.

4th, left Medon and marched to Bolivar; built a boat, and on the morning of the 5th commenced to cross Hatchie River and

*But see revised statement, p. 193.

camped 1 mile south of Bolivar, waiting until the morning of the 7th for the supply train to come up.

7th, left camp and marched to near Macon and encamped.

8th, left camp near Macon and marched to Collierville.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

FRANK. MOORE,

*Commanding First Battalion, Second Illinois Cavalry.*

Col. GEORGE E. WARING, JR.

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HDQRS. FIRST BATT., SECOND ILLINOIS VOL. CAVALRY,
*Camp Grierson, Memphis, Tenn., March* 14, 1864.

SIR: In obedience to orders received from headquarters First Brigade, Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, I have the honor to submit the following report of my proceedings in the recent expedition commanded by Brig. Gen. W. S. Smith into Mississippi:

February 11, left Collierville at 3 p. m. in rear of the brigade as rear guard; marched 10 miles on the Moscow road, and encamped at La Fayette.

February 12, left camp in rear of the Seventh Indiana at 2 p. m.; marched southeast that afternoon and all night; passed through Holly Springs at daylight.

February 13, at 12 m., arrived at Walker's Mills; remained in camp from 12 m. the 13th until 6 a. m. the 15th; marched to Tippah River, 8 miles; spent the night and day in building bridge and crossing the river; encamped on the south side.

On 16th, left camp, order of march same as before, at 7 a. m., Seventh Indiana in advance of battalion; arrived and passed New Albany at 8 p. m., and encamped 4 miles south for the night.

On 17th, left at 5 a. m.; marched 20 miles south, and encamped near Red Land, my battalion in advance.

On 18th, left camp at 7 a. m.; passed Red Land at 8 a. m., battalion in rear of column, and marched to Okolona and 3 miles south, and encamped for the night.

On 19th, left camp at 7 a. m., passed Egypt Station at 10 a. m.; captured a colonel near the station. Battalion took a dispatch from General Smith to General Grierson at Aberdeen, going the 8 miles in forty minutes, and captured a rebel surgeon and 1 private. Leaving Aberdeen at 5 p. m., with General Grierson's brigade, I rejoined my brigade at 10 p. m.

On 20th, left camp at 6 a. m., in rear of Seventh Indiana, and marched to West Point, or 1½ miles this side, and encamped in line of battle; skirmishing with pickets all night.

On 21st, left camp at 8 a. m. on our return, my battalion in advance of brigade; marched all day and half of the night; skirmishing in the rear. Encamped near Okolona, 3 miles south.

On 22d, left camp at 8 a. m. and passed Okolona at 9 a. m., leaving Okolona half a mile to the right, falling in in advance of the Seventh Indiana. Stampeders going to the front left my battalion in rear of the division. I formed and [began] fighting. Being heavily pressed, I fell back on the Fourth Missouri and Seventh Indiana lines, and again being ordered to fall back, I fell back a short distance, formed, and had continual skirmishing and hard fighting until night, gradually falling back, and took up our line of march at dark.

Marched to near Pontotoc, where I halted to rest two or three hours, and at 6 a. m. of the 23d passed Pontotoc, and arrived at New Albany at 2 p. m. Encamped 9 miles this side of New Albany on the evening of the 23d.

On 24th, marched at 5 a. m.; spent most of the day crossing Tippah River; marched most of the night, and encamped near Hudsonville.

On 25th, marched at 6 a. m., and arrived at Collierville the same day.

On 26th, left Collierville, crossed Wolf River, and encamped on the Macon road.

On 27th, marched at 6 a. m., arrived at Memphis at 4 p. m., and encamped at 5 p. m.

I have the honor to be, yours, colonel,

FRANK. MOORE,
*Captain, Comdg. First Battalion, Second Illinois Cavalry.*

Col. GEORGE E. WARING, Jr.

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No. 39.

*Report of Col. John P. C. Shanks, Seventh Indiana Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 9.*

COLLIERVILLE, TENN.,
*February* 10, 1864.

SIR: In pursuance of your orders, I submit the following report of my march from Hickman, Ky., to this place:

January 22, 8 a. m., left Hickman with 606 men, mounted, armed, and equipped, without rations, but with six teams, and ammunition in pouches only for carbines, none for revolvers except one load, under written orders to march to a point within 3 miles of Sharp's Ferry, on Obion River, or to rear of column. I camped at Childs' farm, 3½ miles north of ferry at 8 p. m., having passed in the following order in their camps, Nineteenth Pennsylvania, Fourth Missouri, Second New Jersey Cavalry, having marched 33 miles.

On 23d, regiment remained in camp. I crossed, and examined bottom on south side; found soil light, river rising rapidly and over part of bottom, which is by the most practical route 1½ miles in width; Second Illinois and pioneer corps were crossing; also Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.

On 24th, at 2 a. m., sent Third Battalion to cross; 6 o'clock sent Second, and 8 o'clock First Battalion of Seventh Cavalry. I went to ferry with Second Battalion, and was ordered by Colonel Kargé to cross and examine possibility of crossing wagons. Did so, and found it impossible. Was then ordered to go down river 6, 8, 12 miles to the several ferries for crossing; found no boats, and river wider, banks worse, and bottom as bad as at Sharp's. Reported at 9 a. m.; my regiment meantime had crossed and gone on. River rose 18 inches during night.

I crossed on morning of the 25th, with considerable risk, with dispatches from Colonel Kargé to you. Larger portion of my regiment swam their horses, and lost several horses, some arms, but no men.

On 27th, left camp with Seventh Indiana Cavalry, Nineteenth

Pennsylvania Cavalry, and two companies of Fourth Missouri for Trenton. Camped 4 miles north of Trenton.

On 28th, marched at 7 a. m.; reported to you at Trenton at 10 a. m.; received orders to proceed with Seventh Indiana Cavalry and Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry to Mount Pinson and Bolivar to repair bridges over Forked Deer and Hatchie Rivers. Camped at Muthers' farm.

On 29th, marched at 7 a. m.; procured some meal of Captain Moore at Spring Creek, and camped at Banes' farm.

On 30th, marched at 7 a. m. and reached Mount Pinson at 10 a. m., having sent Lieutenant Skinner with a company to take possession of the bridge and crossing, who found guerrillas there and drove them away. Found the river 100 feet wide and 6 feet deep. Was cloudy; threatening rain. Feared to build low bridge. Repaired old one by putting in span and abutment 50 feet and 10 feet above water. Heavy timbers drawn on wagons from woods by men.

On 31st, 2 p. m., marched for the Hatchie, leaving Nineteenth Pennsylvania to guard bridge at Mount Pinson. Camped at Dean's farm.

February 1, 7 a. m., marched to ferry; arrived at 1 p. m., having sent Captain Moore with company forward. Fired on frequently by guerrillas; took 6 en route. Found only small raft; would carry with safety 3 men and horses with hands; could make trip in six minutes. Proceeded to Bolivar, 1 mile, and procured such material as could to build flat-boat.

February 2, commenced work on boat, Lieutenant Fackenthall, of Nineteenth Pennsylvania, in charge, I having detailed him for the purpose before leaving Mount Pinson. Constructed sides of boat of railroad timber spliced and bottom of doors from the depot in Bolivar; they were double stuff, painted and cross-lapped, seasoned, and did not swell to answer the purpose as expected; they were poplar, but the paint prevented swelling. Boat 40 feet long, 10 wide.

February 3, 4 p. m., launched boat with above results.

February 4, 3 p. m., drew boat out again for repairs with another bottom. Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry arrived.

February 5, 4 p. m., Colonel Waring, with Second Illinois and part of the Fourth Missouri, arrived. Finished boat at 9 a. m. of that day, Capt. Frank. Moore's men assisting in work. The interference of some of the Fourth Missouri with the hands at the boat caused a short delay. From the arrival of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania, Second Illinois, and part of the Fourth Missouri, the raft had been continually running, the Seventh Indiana Cavalry having crossed before their arrival. Light teams had also crossed on raft, all heavy teams being with supply train.

February 6, Second New Jersey Cavalry arrived in the morning and crossed, and in the evening the supply trains reached the ferry and also the remainder of the Fourth Missouri. Boat was ready, and all crossed without delay. There was no time lost on account of boat, as all crossed before supply and heavy regimental wagons arrived.

February 7, a party of guerrillas attacked a forage party on Pocahontas road, 2 miles from Bolivar, under command of Lieutenant Kennedy, of Seventh Indiana. He took 9 men, 8 horses, 1 mule, and 7 guns and carbines without loss.

February 8, 6 a. m., marched with column for Collierville, arriving February 9 at 7 p. m.

On February 2, at 8 a. m., I sent Captain Shoemaker with 40 men to escort Lieutenant Grebe with dispatches to General Smith. He reached Grand Junction and learned of the enemy at La Grange. He reported to me the fact. I sent him Lieutenant Skinner and 40 more men.

He then, on the morning of the 3d, drove the enemy from La Grange, and without further difficulty reported at Memphis. The result of the fray at La Grange was taking 8 prisoners, killing 2, and wounding 1, and some horses.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. C. SHANKS,
*Colonel Seventh Indiana Cavalry.*

Col. GEORGE E. WARING, Jr.,
*Commanding Brigade.*

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No. 40.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Thomas M. Browne, Seventh Indiana Cavalry, of operations February 6–27.*

HDQRS. SEVENTH INDIANA VOLUNTEER CAVALRY,
*Camp Grierson, Tenn., March* 12, 1864.

SIR: In submitting the following report of the part taken by this regiment in the late cavalry expedition to West Point, Miss., I have to regret the absence of Col. J. P. C. Shanks, who was during all that time in command, but who is now absent in consequence of illness induced by the hardships and exposure incident to the march. Having, however, been constantly with the regiment, I hope to be able to give the important particulars of the march with reliable accuracy.

Nothing of interest transpired on the march in which this command was concerned independently of the brigade, until its arrival at the first camp beyond Okolona.

On the morning of the 19th of February, the Second Battalion, consisting of Companies B, D, F, and H, in command of Major Simonson, was detailed to return and destroy the railroad depot, &c., at Okolona, and to the north of it. Pursuant to his instructions he destroyed a bridge on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad of about 300 feet in length, 5 miles north of the town; burned the depot at Okolona, 50 barrels of salt, a warehouse containing a large quantity of Confederate corn; destroyed a locomotive, captured some 50 horses and mules, and rejoined the regiment on that evening. On the evening of the same day Captain Elliott, with Companies M and A, under instructions destroyed 23 large cribs containing Confederate tithe corn, which had been placed for convenience of shipping by the side of the railroad near Egypt Station. The quantity of corn thus destroyed was immense, but I could not venture an opinion as to the number of bushels. Captain Elliott at the same time destroyed three trestle bridges of considerable size on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad between Egypt and Prairie Stations.

On the 20th, being advised that the advance was engaged with the enemy near West Point, the regiment was ordered rapidly forward,

and, arriving upon the ground, immediately formed in line of battle on the right of the road and in good order. Remaining in this position for nearly an hour, it was ordered still farther to the right in support of the Fourth Regiment of Regulars for the purpose of ascertaining the position of the enemy, who was reported to have been recently seen in that direction. A march on the double-quick of some 5 or 6 miles brought us at dark to the place selected for the night's bivouac without our having discovered the enemy in force.

On the return to Okolona on the 21st, this regiment was placed in the column of march at the rear of the First Brigade, the Second Battalion constituting its rear guard. Toward evening the enemy appeared in considerable numbers on our right flank, and made a demonstration on our rear guard; but two companies being promptly thrown out as skirmishers to meet them, they retreated without attacking. At this time the regiment was ordered to the rear to the assistance of the Second Brigade, which had been during most of the day engaged. It was countermarched and proceeding rapidly to the rear, when the enemy was discovered in force upon our right, marching parallel with our column. Major Beck with a company was sent forward to feel for them, supported by another company, under the personal command of Colonel Shanks, while I formed the residue of the command in line for action. Major Beck fired upon and drove in their flankers, when the enemy retired to a safe distance; but a further and more vigorous attack by us, and for which we had prepared, was prevented by the character of the intervening ground. The Second Brigade arriving in the mean time, we were ordered to rejoin the command.

On this day Captain Elliott, in command of a small detail of foragers, was attacked near the roadside by an equal number of the enemy, when the captain charged upon them with such spirit that he killed 1, wounded 2 severely, captured 6 prisoners with their arms, horses, and equipments, bringing them safely to the command without the loss of a man.

On the 22d, the regiment was again placed at the rear of the brigade, and to the rear of the train of contrabands, captured mules and horses. Upon arriving near Okolona, the enemy was discovered upon the right, moving in the same direction with ourselves in the open prairie, but keeping the embankment of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad between them and us. By the order of General Grierson the regiment left the train and moved to the right, deploying Company H as skirmishers, who soon became engaged with those of the enemy. Moving rapidly forward through the center of town and to the north side of it, the regiment formed in line of battle, the enemy forming in our front to the east, and still hugging closely the railroad embankment. The First Battalion engaged the enemy's skirmishers briskly for a few moments, and drove them rapidly back upon their line. Other regiments were soon brought to our rear and formed for our support, artillery put in position, and everything seemed to indicate that an engagement was at hand. Our regiment having been cut off from the brigade, left the rear of the train exposed and measurably unprotected; therefore, after occupying the above position for some time, we were, by General Grierson's order, relieved by another regiment and directed to resume our place in the column of march.

This order was being executed, but the regiment had moved but a few miles from Okolona, when a portion of the force left in our rear

came forward in the wildest disorder and confusion, it having been attacked and driven back by the enemy. The First Battalion was immediately thrown across the road in line of battle, the Second and Third forming at the same time for its support in its rear. Our officers then used every exertion to rally and reform the panic-stricken and flying troops that came pouring upon our lines. To accomplish this was impossible. Very soon the forces of the enemy made their appearance, and skirmishing commenced between them and the First Battalion. The enemy was held in check until, under orders from General Grierson, we retired. The regiment fell back slowly and in good order for some distance, by alternate battalions, and then resumed its march in column. We had not proceeded far before the avalanche of stampeders again came rushing against and past our column, when we again formed in line and again met the enemy, who were at this time pressing the rear hotly and in considerable force. We charged upon them, drove them back handsomely, but becoming exposed to a severe flanking fire and being unsupported, were compelled to retire. Here we lost several men in killed and wounded, among the latter Lieut. G. R. Kennedy, of Company C, who fell leading the charge. He was left on the field. At this point we also inflicted considerable punishment upon the enemy. Retiring a short distance, we again halted, and held our position firmly until ordered back. Passing through the lines formed in our rear by the other regiments of the First Brigade and a portion of the Second Brigade, Major Beck, by order of General Smith, with two companies of the First Battalion and Companies L and M, went out to the left to protect that flank. After going some distance and encountering no opposing force he rejoined the regiment at Ivey's farm.

It was now near sundown, and the enemy was pressing hard upon us. The regiment was halted and thrown into line, a portion of it dismounted and sent to the support of the battery of the Fourth Missouri Regiment, which was in position. Soon afterward those dismounted were ordered to their horses, and General Smith ordered a charge. Not hesitating a moment, Major Beck, with Companies A, E, and G, and Major Febles, with Companies I, K, and M, rode rapidly and gallantly forward upon the lines of the enemy with drawn saber. The nature of the ground prevented the effective use of the saber, but the pistol was substituted for it and did most excellent service. The enemy was driven from his position, and lost fearfully in killed and wounded; we also took several prisoners. The charge was not made without loss to us, as we left quite a number of officers and men on the field. Among the former were Capt. J. R. Parmelee and Lieut. John Douch, of Company A. Lieutenant Douch was wounded mortally, but the precise fate of Captain Parmelee is unknown. In the fight at Ivey's farm the regiment sustained the larger portion of its entire loss.

On the 23d, we were ordered back from the crossing of the Tallahatchie to the support of the Second Brigade and took position, but the enemy having previously discontinued the attack, our services were not required. We then quietly crossed the Tallahatchie. The bridge over which we crossed was burned, and the ford obstructed. Nothing more of interest occurred until the ensuing day.

On this day the First Brigade, in charge of the trains, marched on a different road from the balance of the division, this regiment being in the rear of the First Brigade. We arrived without molestation

nearly to the crossing of the Tippah River, when a small guard, thrown to protect our rear, was suddenly attacked by a considerable force of guerrillas. We lost 1 man killed, 1 wounded, and 2 taken [prisoners]. As soon as information of the attack reached the column the regiment was marched back and put in position for their reception; but they made no further hostile demonstrations, quickly withdrawing to the woods to the rear. The number of this force we could not ascertain with certainty, but a captured contraband, who had been a servant to one of its officers, put their numbers at 200. This ended the exciting and material part of the expedition so far as this regiment was concerned.

From this point we marched without interruption to our present camp, at which place we arrived with the residue of the brigade on the 27th of February.

Our loss in killed, wounded, and missing during the expedition is 84, a list of which has been sent you.

In conclusion, I feel it but an act of justice to say that under the most trying and disheartening circumstances by which this command was surrounded, both officers and men behaved themselves admirably. To the officers, both field and line, much credit is due for the coolness and alacrity with which they executed every order. Notwithstanding the disorder and confusion many times about it, the regiment at no time was disorganized or demoralized.

Respectfully submitted.

THOS. M. BROWNE,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieut. A. VEZIN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 41.

*Report of Maj. Edward Langen, Fourth Missouri Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 8.*

COLLIERVILLE, TENN.,
*February* 10, 1864.

Report of march from Union City, Tenn., to Collierville, Tenn., of the Fourth Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, under command of Maj. Edward Langen:

This command left Union City on the 22d day of January, 1864, and took camp 6 miles from Troy, Tenn.

Left the camp on the morning of the 23d, and marched about 2 miles from Sharp's Ferry, on the Obion River. Camped there again.

Staid in this camp on the 24th, and left the camp on the 25th to return and take another road, as it was, on account of the rise of the Obion River, impossible to cross any more. Passed Troy and arrived on the 25th, 10 miles from Union City, at Widow White's, on the Hickman road.

On the 26th, marched at 10 a. m., and camped 3 miles north of Union City.

On the 27th, passed Jacksonville, Gardner's Station, and camped 2½ miles from Dresden.

On the 28th, staid in this camp and waited for supply train, which came about 2 miles from camp.

Left on the 29th, passed Dresden, McKenzie's Station, and camped 4 miles this side of Huntingdon.

Left camp on the 30th, passed Huntingdon, and camped 6 miles on the other side of Huntingdon.

In this camp we staid all the 31st of January and 1st of February, on which day the supply train caught up.

On the 2d, left camp, passed Spring Creek, and camped 4 miles below Spring Creek, on the Cotton Creek road. In this camp sent five teams from the supply train with provisions to Mount Pinson, and passed Cotton Creek. Passed the Hatchie River and swamp, and camped 5 miles from Mount Pinson.

On the 4th February, passed Mount Pinson, camped 8 miles on the Bolivar road.

On the 5th, marched through Medon, crossed the Hatchie River on a flat-boat, camped 2 miles on the other side of Bolivar, and left on the 7th. Passed Somerville and camped 8 miles below that place.

Left camp on the 8th, passed the Wolf River Swamp and river, and arrived at Collierville early in the afternoon.

EDWARD LANGEN,
*Major, Fourth Missouri Volunteer Cavalry.*

Lieut. A. VEZIN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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## No. 42.

*Report of Maj. Gustav Heinrichs, Fourth Missouri Cavalry, of operations February 11–27.*

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH MISSOURI CAVALRY,
*Camp Grierson, Tenn., March 17, 1864.*

SIR: In compliance with special orders from headquarters First Brigade, I have the honor to transmit herewith my official report of the part taken by my command in the last great cavalry expedition toward Meridian, Miss., and of the different skirmishes and fights in which the same participated:

The regiment left Collierville, Tenn., as part of the First Brigade, on Tuesday afternoon, February 11, and consisted of the First Squadron, under Captain Hanson, with Companies D, G, and H; the Second Squadron, under Captain Kemper, and composed of Companies I, K, and L, and the mountain howitzer battery of four pieces, lately organized, under Capt. Charles P. Knispel, with Lieutenants Graessle and Wieser; Companies A and B. being detached as provost guard and Companies F, C, and E, absent from the regiment. We commenced marching day and night, and the good spirit of the men did hardly leave them time to reflect over the great distances that were made.

February 13, arrived in sight of Holly Springs, Miss., at 6 o'clock, having marched all night, and arrived in camp near Walker's Mills that afternoon.

Left camp on the morning of the 15th under a heavy rain, and arrived near Tippah Creek, where we helped build a bridge with fence rails, and crossed the same with much difficulty, arriving in camp on the other side of Tippah Creek early in the morning of February 16.

Left camp that morning, and crossed the Tallahatchie that same night. Came in camp after midnight and left camp again at 5 o'clock; marched toward Pontotoc, Miss.

Arrived near Okolona at dark next day, and while marching into camp several shots were fired on our advance, when, under direction of Colonel Waring, the regiment, with the battery, formed in line ready to engage the enemy, who, however, seemed to have no desire to open a conflict. We followed him several miles, and he dispersed in all directions. So we went into camp at about 10 o'clock in expectation of meeting him the next morning.

Marched the next day via railroad station, near Egypt, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and encamped near Prairie Mound or Aberdeen, without my command having a chance of coming into action, although skirmishing and heavy patrolling continued all day.

On the 20th, we arrived in camp near West Point, and remained in line of battle all night on a most favorable position after some of the other brigades had been in a fight that day.

At 7 o'clock on the morning of the 22d, when our brigade received orders to fall back, we left camp in the direction of Okolona. My command marched in the center of the First Brigade, with Capt. H. Kemper's squadron in the rear of Captain Knispel's battery, Captain Hanson having the advance. Early after the march a heavy demonstration was made against the brigade marching in the rear of the First, and by order of the colonel commanding I formed in line of battle the pieces, besides my two squadrons, supported by the Second New Jersey and Second Illinois, to our right and left. After awaiting an engagement for about one hour our brigade was ordered to fall back, and we continued our march toward Okolona.

About 2 p. m. Captain Kemper informed me that he was very hard pressed by stragglers from the brigade in our rear, and that the enemy was coming nearer and nearer. While going to the rear to see what could be done, Maj. E. Langen, with the First Squadron, had reached a pretty elevated spot, where, with great presence of mind he halted, and was about forming that squadron to the right of the road. Meanwhile our battery and the Second Squadron had also reached this point, where we formed the regiment, with the pieces partly in the road and on both sides, facing toward the running friends of the brigade in our rear and the approaching enemy from the opposite hill, supported again on both flanks by the brave men of the Second New Jersey and Second Illinois.

The colonel commanding, at that time busily engaged in forming the whole of his brigade, will, I am satisfied, never forget the conduct of his regiment on this critical occasion. While the friends of our rear broke and ran away, and the enemy were coming thicker and thicker, the boys stood like a wall, hoping once to show their ambition to fight, and our battery just as anxious to be tried the first time under fire. We again were ordered back, and arrived near a place called Ivey's farm. I was there ordered by the colonel commanding to the right of the battery, while he in person placed the same in a splendid position. The enemy slowly but steadily approached and opened a lively fire on us. The Fourth Missouri Cavalry was ordered to dismount and fight on foot. The battery had commenced a well-directed fire, and it was there where Colonel Forrest, of the C. S. Army, fell, according to rebel reports since published. It was this young battery that did it. The enemy was checked, and General Smith, present on the occasion, remembering former repre-

sentations and listening to a repeated request of Colonel Waring to allow the Fourth Missouri Cavalry to make a saber charge, ordered the charge, which was executed, and, according to the compliments sent to the regiment by him, in a most brilliant style. During that time the brigade was ordered to fall back like the balance of the troops, and under cover of this charge the withdrawal succeeded, under a most furious fire of the enemy, who meanwhile had succeeded in breaking our left line of support. The enemy had advanced nearer than 20 paces. All of the horses of one piece were killed, and the carriage broken. Major Langen, with Captain Hanson, made another desperate charge, and with the balance of the men, reformed by myself and by the bravery of the officers of the battery, succeeded in saving the whole battery, with the exception of one disabled piece, which was spiked. This spiking was done by Sergeant von Westernhagen and Corporal Velguth, of Company M, which act I feel proud and in duty bound to mention as an act of bravery and courage, and respectfully recommend these brave men to the commendation of the colonel commanding. The conduct of officers and men of my command during this terrible engagement has been sufficiently observed by Colonel Waring, and needs scarcely a repetition of honorable notice on my part. Be it sufficient to say that every one, without exception, behaved well and gallantly.

The enemy, with a good lesson, fell back and troubled us no more. We formed again on the other side of the Tallahatchie on the 23d, and before crossing the Tippah on the 24th, and arrived, after an easy and comfortable march, safely near Memphis on the 27th.

I have also the honor to lay, through you, before the colonel commanding an official list* of the casualties in killed, wounded, and missing of my command. It will be observed that we lost but little, which shows that the enemy, by the courageous and coolly executed saber charge, was so struck and taken by surprise that he lost the balance of power to give a well-aimed fire, and this explains the many horses shot in the legs and heads.

In conclusion, I beg to be allowed to express my sincere thanks to my comrade with me in command, Maj. E. Langen, for his valuable assistance in sharing with me the responsibilities and hardships connected with this expedition.

GUST. HEINRICHS,
*Major, Commanding.*

Lieut. A. VEZIN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 43.

*Reports of Col. Joseph Kargé, Second New Jersey Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 27.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND NEW JERSEY CAVALRY,
*Collierville, February* 10, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with orders received from headquarters Cavalry Brigade, I have the honor to submit the following report:

My command broke camp and took up the line of march for Moscow, Tenn., on Friday, January 22, at 7.30 a. m.

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*Embodied in table, p. 193.

I arrived with my command at 4 p. m. the same date at a point within 6 miles of the Obion River, when I was ordered to superintend the crossing of the brigade at a point called Sharp's Ferry. Leaving my regiment in bivouac, I immediately went to the river, and, after innumerable and almost insurmountable difficulties, I succeeded in getting the Nineteenth Pennsylvania and Seventh Indiana Cavalry, together with a squadron of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry and a detachment of Second Illinois Cavalry, safely over the stream. Owing to the utter impassability of the swamp on the opposite side of the river, in consequence of its sudden rise, I was forced to relinquish the attempt to cross at that point, and after due consideration I concluded to take the balance of the command (consisting of the Second New Jersey Cavalry, a portion of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry, with three mountain howitzers and the supply and baggage trains of the brigade) to their destination by a more practicable route, if possible.

I accordingly started on the line of march with the detachment on Monday, 25th January, at 2 p. m., and after marching about 12 miles I halted the command for the night at the Widow White's farm, where I found forage sufficient for the command.

At 10 a. m., 26th January, the command broke camp and took up the line of march on the Jacksonville road, and halted the command within 4 miles of Jacksonville same date.

The command marched at 8.30 a. m. on the 27th, and arrived within 1 mile of Dresden at 8.30 p. m., same date, where we remained until Friday, 29th, when we broke camp at 6.30 a. m., and reached a point 3 miles beyond McKenzie's Station, where we bivouacked at 5.30 p. m. same day.

We remained at that point until 12 m., Saturday, 22d, when we moved on to Mitchell's farm, 6 miles south of Huntingdon, where we halted at 7 p. m., and received dispatches from the supply train informing me that it was encamped at least 10 miles north of Huntingdon. I immediately gave orders that ten of the baggage wagons of the brigade should be unloaded and sent back to relieve the supply train of a portion of its load, and concluded to remain at the present camp until the supply train arrived.

On the evening of Monday, February 1, the supply train arrived, and on Tuesday, February 2, the command broke camp and reached a point 4 miles south of Spring Creek at 5 p. m., where we remained until the next day, February 3, when we marched at 6.30 a. m. We halted 5 miles north of Mount Pinson, which point we reached at 6 p. m., February 3.

We left camp on the morning of the 4th, and arrived at Medon at 6 p. m., where we halted and bivouacked for the night.

The command left Medon at 7 a. m. Friday, February 5, and arrived at the Hatchie River at 2.30 p. m. same day.

I immediately began crossing the command, and by 12 m. the next day had them all safely over, with the exception of the supply train and escort, which did not arrive until some hours after, when it immediately commenced crossing, and by 2 a. m. February 6 the whole command was safely over and ready for marching, according to orders, on the morning of the 7th instant.

During the march of the command the greater portion of the time the roads were in an almost impassable condition, so much so that at times it took several hours to pass over a space 1 mile in extent;

in addition to that there were numerous parties of guerrillas harassing us in front and rear of the command, so that I was forced to move slowly and cautiously.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH KARGÉ,
*Colonel, Comdg. 2d New Jersey Volunteer Cavalry.*

Col. GEORGE E. WARING, JR.

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HEADQUARTERS SECOND NEW JERSEY CAVALRY,
*Camp Grierson, near Memphis, Tenn., March* 16, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with orders from brigade headquarters to furnish an official report of the part taken by my command in the expedition into Mississippi, I have the honor to state as follows:

On the 11th February, 1864, at 2 p. m., broke camp at Collierville, Tenn., 494 enlisted men strong, and marched 10 miles toward Moscow, where we halted near the railroad to supply the command with commissary and quartermaster's stores.

February 12, at 2 p. m., resumed the march. Reached Hudsonville at 12 midnight; halted for two hours.

February 13, at 2 a. m., resumed the march to Holly Springs, and at 9 a. m. reached Walker's Mills, 8 miles beyond Holly Springs, where the command camped. Forage scarce in the country, and the people hostile. One man shot dead of my command by guerrillas while foraging.

February 14, are compelled to stop in camp for want of orders from commanding general.

On the 15th receive orders and march at 8 a. m. Reach Tippah River at about 1 p. m. The construction of a temporary bridge consumes six hours. The brigade crosses all right, and my command holding the rear of the column crosses its last man.

February 16, at 5 a. m., march 3 miles toward New Albany, where a halt of two hours was made for the purpose of feeding. Resume the march at 9 a. m., reach New Albany at 10 p. m.

Cross the Tallahatchie, February 17, at 1 a. m. Reach camp 4 miles beyond the Tallahatchie at 2.30 a. m. March at 4 a. m., and having made a junction with the Second and Third Brigades, the First Brigade forms the rear of the division. The entire column marches now at a brisk trot, passes Pontotoc at 3 p. m., and goes into camp 7 miles beyond it on the Ripley road.

February 18, at 9 a. m., the column resumes its march, the First Brigade holding the center. Reach Okolona about 5 p. m., and go into camp 3 miles on a road leading to Egypt Station, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

February 19, at 6 a. m., the First Brigade took the front, of which my regiment had the advance. Passed Egypt Station, and took the road leading to Aberdeen. When within 5 miles of Aberdeen, was ordered to countermarch and form the extreme rear of the entire command. Received written orders from the general commanding to shoot any man who should fall out the ranks, as the enemy was believed to be on both flanks, although my flankers had reported to me on the contrary. Adjutant Pierson brought in six large army wagons which he found hidden in the swamps, each one loaded with

various goods and whisky and propelled by six fine mules. Ordered wagons and stores to be burned, but mules and drivers (colored), with about 100 of their friends, who all were anxious to be, joined to the train. Recrossed the railroad at Egypt Station, and immediately after striking a mere field road to the left I reached, after a few miles' march, the roads leading to Prairie Station and West Point, at which point I found my own brigade and the Third, Colonel McCrillis, drawn up in close column of squadrons. Orders were given here to me to take again the advance with my regiment and proceed to Prairie Station, a distance of 6 miles on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, where the long expected and talked of enemy was reported to be. I marched to the indicated point, which I reached at sundown, and found, to my astonishment, instead of the enemy a strong picket of Union soldiers, forming the advance of the Second Brigade, coming directly from Aberdeen. Had I delayed ten minutes longer, I might have engaged my own friends, not being able to tell them from foes on account of the darkness. Camped in the vicinity of the station.

Next morning, February 20, at 8 a. m., marched to West Point, occupying the center of the column, the Second Brigade being in advance. At about 2 p. m. heard of some skirmishing going on with our extreme advance and the enemy. Finally, after frequent delays, reached camp 1 mile west of West Point, where I again was ordered to exercise the utmost precaution, as the enemy was occupying both our flanks and rear.

The night passed quietly with only occasional firing of pickets, and at dawn next morning, February 21, the firing began to be quite brisk, and when I was anticipating to engage the so-long-sought-for enemy, I was ordered to move my command and proceed on the road I came toward Okolona. The First Brigade again occupied the center, guarding the mule train and negroes. Heavy skirmishing was going on in our rear with the Second Brigade, and occasional shots of howitzers were heard, but no signs of the enemy in our center. We proceeded unmolested some 20 miles, when at last I perceived, for the first time since I left Collierville, the enemy on my right, 1 mile distant, in an open field, drawn up in line of battle, evidently about 600 strong. By orders of Colonel Waring, my brigade commander, I hastened with my command to take him on the left flank, hiding my men as much as possible in the skirts of the woods, but before I had time to reach the desired spot, where I could attack him, he had left, and night setting in, I rejoined my place in the column. Marched till 2 a. m., February 22, and halted for four hours 3 miles south of Okolona. At 7 a. m. marched on the old Pontotoc road, passed Okolona, leaving it to the right within a short distance. Heard of the enemy's presence but saw none, and when about 6 miles north of the last-named place (the First Brigade still holding the center and guarding the train), I was ordered by my brigade commander to countermarch and deploy my regiment within half a mile of the place where I turned on the left side of the road. The position I had taken up was every way a superior one, and I had scarcely made my arrangements when I saw the Fourth Regulars coming from the direction of Okolona in a rather disturbed condition, exhibiting marks of pretty severe handling. This induced me to believe that a general action was close at hand, and as the position which the brigade and especially my regiment occupied was in every

way a superior one for effective defense, I ordered at once a part of my command to dismount and placed it in such a position that it could sweep with its fire not only the front but the entire left flank and not running the slightest danger of being annoyed by the enemy's sharpshooters, the formation of the ground affording ample protection for both men and horses. Close to the road and on the left of it stood a large dwelling-house, surrounded by at least half a dozen of bullet-proof negro log cabins, which I was just on my way to take possession of with 50 of my men who had stepped forward voluntarily, when I received orders from the front to resume my place in the column of march. I did it with reluctance, for I knew by frequent discharges of fire-arms that General Grierson was still engaging the enemy in the rear with the Third Brigade. Still, obedience being the first virtue of a soldier, I resumed my march as ordered. Having proceeded not over 1½ miles I was again ordered by Colonel Waring to take position on the left-hand side of the road, facing the enemy. I immediately deployed a part of my command in a deep gully, some 500 yards left from the road, intrusting the command of the same to Major Yorke. Twenty-five men, under Adjutant Pierson, I placed dismounted on an eminence facing the bend of the road. I directed his attention particularly to a hollow road on the opposite hill which, if allowed to be occupied by one or two pieces of the the enemy's artillery, might have played havoc among my center, which was drawn up as a reserve a few paces in the rear of the 25 men under Adjutant Pierson. I had as yet not disposed of half of my command when a terrible rush was made from the rear, caused by the rout of the Third Brigade, and at a time it seemed that it might carry terror and dismay among the First Brigade, which was just preparing for action. Fortunately, the road being pretty wide and the woods open, it took but very little time for the fugitives to pass, and scarcely had the last one passed my lines when the enemy was on his heels, and began to show himself in considerable numbers in our immediate front on the opposite hill. A few scattering shots and the occasional whiz of balls reminded my men that they were for the first time facing the enemy. But nobly did they perform their work; volley after volley did they pour from their seven-shooters among the pressing foe. Major Yorke did his work bravely on the left; the adjutant was busily engaged in the center keeping the road clear, while Captain von Pannwitz was ordered to take possession, on the immediate right side of the road, of a few buildings, whence he poured forth a galling fire. An entire hour the enemy was held in check on my left and center most stubbornly, but having on my right only one squadron of the Fourth Missouri, under Captain Howe, and a part of the Second Illinois under Captain Moore to support me (the latter was withdrawn during the hottest of the engagement), I began to be apprehensive of being flanked. I sent, therefore, orders to Major Yorke, whose left was considerably in advance of the center and right, to fall slowly back toward the center, still keeping Adjutant Pierson in his old position, when at once a fire was opened by the enemy obliquely on my right. I now ordered the center to move, and I am proud to say that neither an officer nor a man of my command showed any unbecoming haste to withdraw himself from the enemy's fire. They all moved off in perfect order, and not until they had inflicted upon the enemy a severe lesson.

I lost in killed but few, in wounded 8 men, besides 2 officers, Captain von Pannwitz and Lieutenant Montgomery seriously. The latter, I am sorry to say, fell into the hands of the enemy, for the reason that no ambulances were on hand to carry him from the field.

The enemy did not molest us in the least. We safely rejoined our column in the brigade, from which we were separated by a motley crowd, who continually were pouring into the road from each side, seeking to get to the front out of harm's reach. The regiment deployed again one-fourth of a mile beyond Ivey's Hill, where it remained until every regiment had passed to the front with the exception of the Fifth Kentucky, which formed the rear guard. Night having now set in and the enemy entirely quieted, the regiment resumed its ordinary march in the column and reached the vicinity of Pontotoc February 23, at 2 a. m.

At 4.30 a. m. the regiment took the advance, and reached New Albany at 3 p. m. Crossed the Tallahatchie, covered the crossing of the entire division, which was accomplished at about 5 p. m. Taking the extreme rear, rejoined the brigade 3 miles northwest of New Albany, on the road to Holly Springs. The column still marched 7 miles that night, which brought us within 15 miles of the Tippah River.

February 24, we crossed the river in safety and reached Hudsonville, within 3 miles, where we camped, the horses having had very little or nothing to eat since the day of the engagement near Okolona.

February 25, we reached Collierville.

26th, we crossed Wolf River, got some forage for horses and food for men.

27th, we reached within 3½ miles of Memphis, where on the 28th a sudden cold storm had a pernicious effect upon my horses, which, exhausted by long and continual marching since December 22, 1863, and previous to this date the transportation from Washington, D. C., to Columbus, Ky., had rendered for the most part unserviceable.

The regiment lost by death on the march and in camp the majority of its horses, and of the remaining 161 only 55 can be called serviceable.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH KARGÉ,
*Colonel, Commanding Second New Jersey Cavalry.*

Lieut. A. VEZIN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 44.

*Reports of Lieut. Col. Joseph C. Hess, Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, of operations January 22–February 17.*

HDQRS. NINETEENTH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY,
*Collierville, Tenn., February 10, 1864.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to forward the inclosed journal as my report of the march from Union City, Tenn., to this place.

The march was commenced January 22 and concluded February 8, 1864. No incident worthy of note occurred. Our command was frequently fired upon by guerrillas, but no loss was met with. Our train reached us at Bolivar entire, and, with the exception of some stock, the march was made without loss.

Respectfully submitted.

J. C. HESS,
*Lieut. Col., Comdg. Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

Lieut. A. VEZIN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure.]

Journal of the march of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry from Union City, Tenn., to Collierville, Tenn., January 22 to February 8, 1864:

Friday, January 22, left Union City, Tenn., en route for Collierville, Tenn. Encamped for the night 5 miles beyond Troy. Distance marched, 15 miles.

Saturday, January 23, left camp at 4 a. m. Crossed the Obion River in a flat-boat. Boat capsized, and 7 horses were lost. Afterward, in crossing the swamp, 23 horses were lost, making a total loss of 30. Distance marched, 13 miles.

Sunday, January 24, was spent by the command in waiting for the balance of the regiment to cross the Obion. Encamped at Porter's farm.

Monday, January 25, encamped at Porter's farm.

Tuesday, January 26, left Porter's farm and marched via Newbern and Yorkville to within 5 miles of Trenton. Distance marched, 24 miles.

Wednesday, January 27, broke camp and marched via Trenton, and took the Spring Creek road. Distance marched, 17 miles.

Thursday, January 28, broke camp and marched 35 miles. During the day the command frequently crossed the Forked Deer. The advance and rear guard were fired upon.

Friday, January 29, broke camp and marched to Mount Pinson. Distance, 8 miles.

Saturday, January 30, encamped at Mount Pinson. Engaged in repairing the bridge across the North Fork.

Sunday, January 31, encamped at Mount Pinson.

Monday, February 1, encamped at Mount Pinson.

Tuesday, February 2, encamped at Mount Pinson.

Wednesday, February 3, left Mount Pinson and marched to the Hatchie. Distance, 30 miles. Command crossed the same night, and encamped at Bolivar.

Thursday, February 4, encamped at Bolivar.

Friday, February 5, encamped at Bolivar.

Saturday, February 6, broke camp and marched to Kennedy's Mills. Distance, 4 miles.

Sunday, February 7, left Kennedy's Mills and marched to within 5 miles of Macon. Distance marched, 28 miles.

Monday, February 8, marched to Collierville. Distance, 13 miles.

J. C. HESS,
*Lieutenant-Colonel Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

FORT PICKERING, MEMPHIS, TENN.,
*February* 21, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry reached New Albany, Miss., on the morning of the 17th. One hundred men, under Major Holahan, were detached to accompany the expedition under General Smith. The remainder returned the same day to Memphis with prisoners and sick. Passed through Holly Springs on the evening of the 18th, and reached Memphis at 4 p. m., February 20.

The prisoners were delivered over to the provost-marshal, and the regiment ordered to report to Fort Pickering. Guerrillas followed the command the entire route. Two of them were killed.

Respectfully submitted.

J. C. HESS,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieut. A. VEZIN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 45.

*Report of Maj. Amos J. Holahan, Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, of operations February* 16–27.

HDQRS. FIRST BATT., 19TH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY,
*Near Memphis, March* 14, 1864.

SIR: In pursuance to orders received from headquarters First Brigade, Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, I have the honor to submit to you a report of the part the detachment of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry took in the late expedition:

Orders were received from headquarters Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, on the evening of February 16, directing the detail of 100 picked men, under the charge of the second officer in command, with a sufficient number of officers from the regiment, while the remainder, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hess, were directed to return to Memphis in charge of prisoners.

The detail under my command, assisted by Adjt. N. M. Smith, Captains Berry and Fischer, and Lieutenants Fackenthall, Freeman, and R. C. Allen, left its bivouac on the west bank of the Tallahatchie River at 3 a. m.

February 17, crossed the river, taking the Pontotoc road. I reached the camp of the First Brigade at daylight. The line of march had already been commenced by order of Colonel Waring. I took my position in the rear of the Seventh Indiana Cavalry. The day was passed without incident of note, having marched about 40 miles.

February 18, resumed the march at 7.30 a. m., and marched to Okolona, reaching there after dark. Distance marched, about 35 miles.

February 19, at 1 a. m., I received orders from Colonel Waring, commanding First Brigade, directing me to proceed with my command at 3 a. m. to Egypt and destroy the railroad and stores at that point. I started punctually at the hour named, and reached

Egypt at 4.30 a. m. I immediately threw out a sufficient force to picket the roads; then destroyed the telegraph and fell to work at the railroad. Great difficulty was experienced in making rapid progress in the destruction of the road for want of proper tools, but shortly after the tools of the road were discovered in a house some distance from the station. These were at once brought into requisition, and by 9 a. m. some 300 yards of the road were effectually destroyed, the rails torn up and bent, while large fires were built over the track, which I was unable, for want of time, to tear up. At 9.30 a. m. Colonel Waring came up and directed me to fire all the stores found in the place; then rejoin the brigade and act as rear guard.

The following articles were captured at Egypt, viz: 100,000 bushels of corn, 5,000 bushels of meal and bran, 5 sacks of salt, 4 boxes tobacco, 100 muskets, 2,000 grain bags, and a mail. The corn meal, muskets, and sacks were destroyed, together with the depot, a workshop, and a store-house. Other buildings were destroyed by stragglers of other commands.

I resumed the march, taking the Aberdeen road. After proceeding 2 miles I met the brigade returning, having taken the wrong road. By order of Colonel Waring I took the advance of the brigade. The brigade encamped at Pine Grove at dark. Distance marched, 18 miles.

February 20, broke camp at 7 a. m. and marched to West Point. During the day the advance were engaged in skirmishing. Distance marched, 20 miles.

February 21, after having the prisoners, numbering some 80, captured by the different brigades, turned over to me, I, with the rest of the command, commenced a retrograde movement. The rear were heavily engaged during the day. Several foraging parties sent out during the day from my command, by order of Colonel Waring, met parties of the enemy on the flanks and had several spirited skirmishes, which resulted without loss to us. One of the enemy was killed. The command reached Okolona at 8 p. m. Distance marched, 38 miles.

February 22, left camp at 7 a. m. At Okolona the rear brigade was attacked and driven back. The First Brigade countermarched and moved to its support, while I with my command and prisoners waited until the pack train and negroes had passed, and then moved in the rear. At Ivey's Hill the whole train was halted, and I was ordered by General Smith to a position to the left of the road on the edge of the woods, some 75 yards in rear of the summit of the hill, with directions to remain there until further orders. Here I waited until the whole of the three brigades, excepting a battalion of the Second Illinois, passed me, the First Brigade seeming to be the only one that maintained its organization. The enemy continued to advance, and finally drove the Second Illinois, while his balls came whistling through my ranks at every volley. Not thinking it likely that any further orders would be sent me, upon my own responsibility I moved to the rear of the new position taken by the First Brigade. Here I found the negroes panic-stricken, rushing in every direction in the wildest disorder, and it was only by the vigorous use of the saber that I prevented my command from being swept away in this human tornado. Although my column was broken several times, at last, in conjunction with the negro pioneer corps, I was able to form and maintain a good column of fours, and by making

the stragglers fall in my rear order was established in my part of the train. Shortly after dark one of my prisoners attempted to escape by jumping into a thicket by the roadside, but he had hardly left his horse when half a dozen pieces were discharged at him, and he, as I was informed immediately after, fell dead. We halted at midnight, 2 miles southeast of Pontotoc. Distance marched, about 30 miles.

February 23, the march was resumed at 3.30 a. m. Reached New Albany at noon, and immediately crossed the Tallahatchie River without annoyance. After resting here for two hours the march was resumed. After crossing the Tallahatchie bottom we encamped 14 miles from New Albany.

February 24, I left camp at 5 a. m. with the train, the brigade following in our rear. After crossing Tippah River I was ordered to follow immediately in the rear of two companies of the Second Illinois, who had the advance of the train. At the bridge Colonel Waring detailed Captain Fischer, with 25 men from my command, to remain and prevent confusion in crossing by the other commands. These men afterward joined us at different points along the road. About 3 miles from the river I met Colonel McCrillis' brigade, who greeted me with anxious inquiries as to how the battle was progressing, &c., but I was ignorant of any engagement being in progress. Some 2 miles farther on I met General Smith, who had already turned the Second Illinois back, who greeted me as follows: "We are attacked in the rear; turn back; I want every man at the river;" but when I informed him the nature of the duty I was performing, he said: "Then also take charge of the train, and pick up all stragglers to assist you in guarding your command, and push on to Memphis as quick as you can. I don't care how you get there, only get the train out of the way. I don't care if you go all the way to-night, only push on as fast as you can." Presuming there was some reason for this excitement, I moved on at as rapid a gait as I thought the train could follow. Shortly after dark, hearing the train was not closed up, I halted about an hour for it, and started as soon as I had it in close column. I moved on a few miles, and halted between Hudsonville and Mount Pleasant for the night.

February 25, I left camp at 7 a. m., and after moving on beyond Mount Pleasant halted and fed my command. Resuming the march at 11 a. m., I moved on slowly, taking the State Line road between Collierville and Germantown. At the latter place I halted for an hour, and then moved on. After proceeding a short distance I met Lieutenant-Colonel Hess, of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, in command of detachments of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania, Sixth Tennessee, and First Alabama, who were sent out by General Buckland to re-enforce General Smith. Learning from Colonel Hess that stragglers, who had reached Memphis before me, had reported that the expedition had been totally defeated and scattered, I immediately ordered Adjutant Smith to report to General Buckland and contradict the statements of these fellows. I then went into camp 8 miles from Memphis.

February 26, I reported to General Smith and received orders from Lieutenant Ingerton, acting assistant adjutant-general, to turn the train over to Captain Ewart, Second Illinois Cavalry, and report to my regiment at Fort Pickering, which I did after turning over my prisoners to Captain Williams, provost-marshal of Memphis.

The officers and men of my command deserve great praise for the coolness they displayed and their general good conduct. No straggling or vandalism took place, no man being allowed to leave the column without permission from his commanding officer.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. J. HOLAHAN,
*Major Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.*

Lieut. A. VEZIN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 46.

*Report of Lieut. Col. William P. Hepburn, Second Iowa Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, of operations February* 11–26.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Germantown, Tenn., March* 15, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following as a brief report of the action of the Second Brigade, Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, in the late expedition into Mississippi:*

In accordance to orders from the general commanding the Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, I marched the Second Brigade, composed of the Second Iowa Cavalry, Major Coon commanding; Sixth Illinois Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Starr, commanding; Seventh Illinois Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Trafton, commanding; Ninth Illinois Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Burgh commanding; Company K, First Illinois Light Artillery, Lieutenant Curtis commanding, and two companies of the pioneer corps, in all 2,900 strong, at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 11th of February, and effected a crossing of the Coldwater at Miller's Ford and Doty's Mill by 3 o'clock of the afternoon. The whole command bivouacked that night 8 miles southeasterly from Byhalia.

At an early hour the next day the march was resumed, and continued without incident until a point 2 miles east of Waterford was reached, when, at 8 p. m., the brigade went into camp. Four companies of the Second Iowa Cavalry, under command of Captain Horton, were sent in the direction of Wyatt to communicate with Colonel McMillen.

On the morning of the 13th the march was resumed. One battalion of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, under command of Major Bishop, was sent to the railroad crossing, in the direction of Abbeville, to make a feint of crossing the Tallahatchie, and one battalion of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, commanded by Captain Webster, was sent to form a junction with Captain Horton. At 3 p. m. the brigade crossed the Tippah, at Callahan's Mills, on a bridge built by the pioneer corps, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Starr, and encamped in the vicinity of Potts' house.

The march was resumed at daylight, and the Tallahatchie crossed about 2 p. m. The brigade encamped for the night and during the next day 5 miles south of New Albany.

On the 16th, the command marched 4 miles, encamping at Johnson's plantation, 9 miles south of New Albany.

On the night of the 17th, encamped 9 miles south of Pontotoc.

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* Lieutenant-Colonel Hepburn assumed command of the brigade February 7.

On the 18th, the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, by order of Brigadier-General Grierson, moved upon Aberdeen, 45 miles distant. Colonel Burgh, commanding, was opposed by a few companies of Confederate cavalry, which he quickly dispersed, and reached Aberdeen, from which he drove the enemy's cavalry at sundown. He captured several prisoners of war, large quantities of stores, and many horses and mules. On the night of the 18th, the brigade encamped 4 miles east of Okolona.

On the 19th, passed through Aberdeen and to a point 2 miles east of Prairie Station.

On the morning of the 20th, the entire command moved in the direction of West Point, the Second Brigade in the front. The Second Iowa Cavalry was in the advance of the brigade, and the Sixth Illinois Cavalry upon the left flank on the railroad, which they effectually destroyed. Immense quantities of corn belonging to the Confederacy was burned. Near Loohattan Station Colonel Starr reported the enemy in force at a point about 6 miles north of West Point. The advance, consisting of 17 men of Company K, Second Iowa Cavalry, under command of Lieutenant Bandy, ran upon a vastly superior force of the enemy. Lieutenant Bandy immediately charged them, putting them to flight, capturing several prisoners. His conduct was gallant in the extreme, and entitles him to the hearty commendation of his commanding officers.

One and one-half miles north of West Point the enemy, reported to be Colonel Forrest's brigade, advantageously posted in timber and behind fences, vigorously attacked and checked the advance of the Second Iowa. The regiment was soon in position and so supported by other parts of the brigade that the enemy was routed, but not without the loss of Lieutenant Dwire, Second Iowa Cavalry, and 4 men wounded.

Lieutenant Dwire was a brave, earnest and faithful soldier, but the many comrades who mourn his loss have the comforting reflection that he died at his post and in the full discharge of his duty.

An hour later West Point was occupied by our forces, and the brigade encamped for the night in its vicinity.

On the morning of the 21st, one battalion of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry, under command of Major Whitsit, was ordered out to reconnoiter the West Point and Houston road. He soon found a superior force, and was re-enforced by the Second Iowa Cavalry. After an engagement of two hours the enemy were driven across the Sakatonchee. In this engagement we lost several men wounded.

While the Second Iowa and Major Whitsit's battalion were engaged, the enemy, about 400 strong, made a demonstration on the West Point and Columbus road. They were driven rapidly back by Captain Webster, Seventh Illinois, and Captain Blackburn, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, with their respective companies.

After driving the enemy across the Sakatonchee and routing them on the Columbus road, the First and Third Brigades having been well advanced in the retrograde movement, the Second Brigade was ordered to retrace their steps of the day before and cover the rear of the command, the Second Iowa in the rear.

I directed Major Coon, commanding the Second Iowa, at any time when he might be severely pressed to sound the signal "halt." I also directed the other commanding officers to have the signal repeated from rear to the front of the brigade. Major Coon replied that he could take care of anything that was in the rear.

For a distance of 5 or 6 miles our rear guard was scarcely molested. Afterward, for 2 or 3 miles, the skirmishing was heavy.

Eight miles from West Point General Grierson, with the Sixth and Ninth Illinois Cavalry, started to the relief of the brigade train, reported to be in imminent danger, about 4 miles to the front. Two companies of the Seventh Illinois were with the train.

In passing a swamp, about 9 miles from West Point, the Second Iowa was heavily pressed by the enemy. When a short distance north of it I received word from Major Coon that the brigade was moving faster than it was possible for him to march, and immediately afterward that a line must be formed in order to give him relief.

The remaining companies of the Seventh Illinois were at once posted upon eligible ground, supporting Company K, First Illinois Artillery. Lieutenant Curtis opened upon the enemy, and by a well-directed fire checked temporarily their advance, and the Second Iowa fell back behind the line.

It is proper here to remark that no signals, as directed, were sounded from the rear, and no calls for assistance or re-enforcements were made that were not at once responded to.

The Seventh and Ninth Illinois Cavalry alternately relieved the Second Iowa as rear guard, and, in compliance with orders to fall back as rapidly as possible and fight only when absolutely necessary, we resumed our march.

During the night the enemy was successfully ambuscaded by the Seventh and Ninth Illinois, and suffered a heavy loss.

The brigade encamped 2 miles south of Okolona, at which place Company K, First Illinois Light Artillery, was detached and attached to the Third Brigade.

At sunrise we resumed the march, the Second Brigade taking the advance. Ten miles from Okolona I was ordered by General Smith to form the brigade in line of battle, making such dispositions that the First and Third Brigades, then heavily pressed by the enemy, might pass through. The Sixth Illinois was detained by General Smith in the rear. The Seventh Illinois I was directed to send forward with the train. The Second Iowa and Ninth Illinois were promptly formed in fine positions, but were soon ordered farther to the rear, where they met and checked the advance of the enemy.

Some three hours the troops were used in forming successive lines, and fighting their way slowly back to Ivey's Hill, where lines were formed and a general engagement tendered the enemy. Dark put an end to the engagement, leaving our cavalry in possession of the field, having repulsed and beaten the enemy at every point where he made an attack. Prior to this the Seventh Illinois Cavalry had been relieved from duty with the train, and had borne a distinguished part in the various engagements of the day.

We bivouacked that night 2 miles south of Pontotoc, and the next day at noon recrossed the Tallahatchie at New Albany.

The last seen of the enemy he was 9 miles southeast of New Albany.

By slow marches we regained our camp at Germantown on Friday, the 26th ultimo, at 12 m., after a march of 400 miles in eleven marching days.

In a report like this I cannot properly express my appreciation of the heroic conduct of the regimental commanders and all officers and men of the Second Brigade. All bravely fought, patiently

endured, and in all respects exhibited the highest degree of soldierly qualities. To Lieutenant-Colonel Trafton and Lieutenant-Colonel Burgh, for their earnest and hearty co-operation, I am personally and greatly indebted and express my grateful thanks. The members of my staff were untiring in their efforts to effect the success of the expedition, brave and zealous. I made no calls upon their courage, patience, or endurance to which they did not respond to my full satisfaction.

At least 1,000 horses and mules were captured, but our marching the first three days from West Point was so severe that all were required to remount the men. Several hundred negroes were brought in.

Captain Schnitzer, acting provost-marshal, has not yet furnished a report of the number of prisoners captured, but I am safe in estimating them at 75 or 100.

Our losses by regiments during the entire expedition are as follows :

| Regiment. | Killed. | Wounded. | Missing. | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2d Iowa | 8 | 27 | 11 | ..... |
| 6th Illinois | .... | 7 | 5 | ..... |
| 7th Illinois | 4 | 15 | 6 | ..... |
| 9th Illinois | 1 | 20 | 10 | ..... |
| Total in brigade* | 13 | 69 | 32 | 114 |

For more particular information I transmit herewith the reports of the regimental and detachment commanders.

W. P. HEPBURN,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. SAMUEL L. WOODWARD,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Memphis, Tenn.*

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No. 47.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Mathew H. Starr, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, of operations February* 11–26.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
*Germantown, Tenn., March* 1, 1864.

LIEUTENANT : I have the honor to report the following part taken by the Sixth Illinois Cavalry in the recent expedition under Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith, from Germantown, Tenn., to West Point, Miss.:

On the morning of February 11, I received orders from Brigadier-General Grierson to remain at Germantown until the arrival of the train from Memphis. At 9 a. m., on the same day, I moved toward Olive Branch, Miss., arriving there at 11.40 a. m., thence moving south, crossing Coldwater at Doty's Mill, thence south through Byhalia, joining and bivouacking with the brigade at a point 11 miles southwest of Holly Springs.

*But see revised statement, p. 194.

Moved at 8 a. m., February 12, in the direction of Waterford, passing that place at dark; encamped 1½ miles southeast.

At daylight moved one battalion, with pioneer corps, to prepare a crossing at Callahan's Mills on the Tippah River. At 9 a. m. received orders to proceed with the two remaining battalions to the river, and assist in constructing a bridge for the crossing of the command. Arrived at the river at 12 m.; completed the bridge at 3.20 p. m.; marched with the brigade to Okolona, Miss., encamping on the night of the 18th 5 miles east, where I received orders at 8 p. m. to move with the Sixth Illinois Cavalry and the battery of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry to a point 9 miles north of Aberdeen, Miss., communicating with Lieutenant-Colonel Burgh, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, at Aberdeen, and taking possession of Cotton Gin Ferry, over the Tombigbee River, 10 miles above Aberdeen.

At daylight I moved slowly toward Aberdeen, halting 6 miles north of that place to feed. At 12 o'clock I fell in rear of the brigade, marching to a point 2 miles east of Prairie Station, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, where the regiment encamped with the brigade.

On the morning of the 20th of February, I received orders from Brigadier-General Grierson to proceed with the regiment along the railroad to Loohattan Station to destroy all bridges, culverts, railroad buildings, and C. S. property of whatever kind. During the day the amount of property destroyed was estimated at 500,000 bushels corn and 200 bales fodder. I also burned 11 bridges and culverts.

Arriving at Loohattan Station, I found the enemy in force 1½ miles east of the station. I took position at the railroad and communicated with General Grierson, who instructed me to remain until further orders, not, however, to advance. Soon after General Grierson arrived in person, with two battalions of Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

The enemy, consisting of the brigades of Colonels Forrest and McCulloch, having discovered the column moving on the main Okolona and West Point road, moved rapidly in that direction. At 1 a. m. General Grierson ordered the regiment to rejoin the column.

On the morning of February 20, I sent one battalion, under Maj. C. W. Whitsit, to reconnoiter on the Houston road. The enemy were found in small force about 2 miles out. Being superior in numbers to the battalion under Major Whitsit, the Second Iowa Cavalry moved on the Houston road, relieving him. Almost immediately after this, I was ordered to move in the direction of West Point, 1 mile distant, to ascertain the cause of an alarm in that direction. I posted my dismounted men on the railroad, and sent forward Captain Blackburn, Company A, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, and Capt. M. L. Webster, with one company Seventh Illinois Cavalry, moving on the Columbus road. They encountered a considerable force of the enemy's cavalry; a vigorous attack made by the companies of Captains Webster and Blackburn dispersed them completely.

Receiving orders to take my place in the column, a line of march to the rear having been taken up, I marched out of West Point at 11 a. m., February 21. During the day so many details of companies and battalions were made to assist the Second Iowa Cavalry, then covering the retreat, that it is impossible to enumerate them.

At 10 a. m., February 22, I received orders from Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith to proceed to the rear of the column with the Sixth

Illinois Cavalry, there reporting to Brigadier-General Grierson. The rear of the column being somewhat confused, General Grierson ordered my regiment into position in advance of the First Brigade, two regiments of the Third Brigade being still in advance, skirmishing with the enemy. One of the three regiments being pressed, broke and retreated through my line in disorder, scattering one battalion of my regiment. The Third Battalion, under Major Whitsit, on the left, and the Second Battalion, under Capt. John Lynch, on the right, held the enemy in check for some time, until they were attacked on the flanks, when they were withdrawn, Lieutenant-Colonel Thornburgh, Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, having formed one battalion of his regiment for their relief.

During the day the regiment was in action five different times. The limited number of cartridge-boxes and belts precluded the carrying of more than 40 rounds of ammunition. This amount having been expended before 5 p. m., the regiment was not engaged until dark, when General Grierson requested its assistance with or without ammunition. The men responded cheerfully to his call, and remained in position about half an hour, until relieved by the Fourth Missouri Cavalry of the First Brigade.

At about 11 a. m., February 23, I was ordered to relieve the Fifth Kentucky and Third Illinois Cavalry, then covering the retreat. The regiment marched in the rear a distance of 9 miles to New Albany without exchanging a shot. On the night of the 23d February, at 8 p. m., in obedience to orders, I sent one battalion, under Major Whitsit, to encamp at Potts' plantation, with instructions to scout well the Hollow Ford and King's Bridge road; also the road to Tippah River. This was accomplished by daylight in the morning, the battalion halting at the Tippah until the column had passed. The regiment marched with the brigade from that point to Germantown, Tenn., where it is now stationed.

The loss of the regiment is 7 wounded and 5 missing.

Respectfully submitted.

M. H. STARR,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Sixth Illinois Cavalry.*

Lieut. W. SCOTT BELDEN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 48.

*Report of Lieut. Col. George W. Trafton, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, of operations February* 11–26.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
*Camp near Germantown, Tenn., February* 28, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in accordance with previous instructions, I started with the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, 700 strong, from camp near Germantown, at 3 a. m. of the 11th instant.

My regiment took the advance, and marched first day through Byhalia to Dick's plantation, about 4 miles south of that place. There we camped for the night.

Started from there next morning, my regiment still taking the advance; marched this day (12th) about 20 miles. From this time

we marched daily, taking my regular place in the column according to the order of march, without any incident of note till the 20th instant, when, near West Point, Miss., the advance came up and skirmished the enemy. My regiment had been 3 miles from the line of march to the left in charge of General Grierson, and returned just as the regiments in front had repulsed the enemy and drove him from the field. One battalion of my regiment, under command of Captain Webster, sent to the left and skirmished the enemy, who fled, and the battalion went as far as the town of West Point. By this time it was night, and we went into camp near the town.

Next morning reveille sounded at daylight; boots and saddles soon after. About 7 o'clock to horse was sounded, and we formed in close column of squadrons on the West Point road, and near the town, and remained there until nearly noon. During this time the regiments in front had been skirmishing, and a couple of companies of my regiment went to the left; had a skirmish with the enemy. A little before noon we started, taking the road to return. About 3 o'clock we were called to the rear; had some slight skirmishing. Camped that night, at 12 o'clock, near Okolona.

Started next morning in advance, but had not gone far when the report was brought to the front that they were fighting in the rear. We were formed in line of battle on the left of the road and remained about half an hour, when we were ordered to proceed with the pack train and other incumbrances. We accordingly started, and proceeded about 4 miles, when we were ordered to halt. Shortly after we were ordered to the rear to help support that part of the line. We went back on double-quick, found the different regiments in some little confusion, occasioned by the breaking up and stampeding of a regiment. We immediately formed on the extreme rear, where the enemy were pressing hard, and held them in check until there was a line formed in our rear. We then fell back to another position. The fighting continued until after dark, when the different regiments withdrew from the field. My regiment was the last to withdraw from position on the field. As we came off met General Grierson, and Colonel Hepburn was assigned position by General Grierson, which we maintained till the column was in motion, and then followed in the rear to within 4 miles of Pontotoc, where we stopped two hours, and distributed our ammunition and the remainder of rations.

Started again at sunrise, my regiment again taking the rear. The enemy had been crowding the rear from the time I left the battle-ground near Okolona, and at Pontotoc they charged my rear guard again, but were repulsed at every advance with such havoc in their ranks that they became chary of approaching us, and after leaving Pontotoc they only came up two or three times within range of our carbines.

On the 25th, we recrossed the Tippah and came on to this place, where we arrived on the 26th safe and sound.

Our loss was 4 men killed, 15 men wounded, 1 prisoner of war, and 6 missing. We lost also 200 horses.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

GEO. W. TRAFTON,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Seventh Illinois Cavalry.*

Lieut. W. SCOTT BELDEN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 49.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Henry B. Burgh, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, of operations February* 11–26.

HEADQUARTERS NINTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
*Germantown, Tenn., February* 28, 1864.

SIR: In obedience to orders received from brigade headquarters, I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by my regiment in the late expedition:

I left camp at Germantown, Tenn., February 11, 1864, as a part of the Second Brigade, Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps.

On the morning of the 13th, Major Bishop, with one battalion, was ordered to make a demonstration at Abbeville crossing, where he found a large force of the enemy and skirmished with them for an hour, resulting in a loss to the enemy of 4 men wounded, after which he rejoined the regiment.

On the 18th, I was ordered to proceed to Okolona and Aberdeen. At Okolona we met a small party of the enemy and drove them before us, taking the town by surprise, and capturing a large mail and Lieutenant Barber, depot quartermaster.

From there we marched on Aberdeen, where we found two companies of State militia, drove them back, taking possession of the town, killing Captain Rogers, commissary of subsistence, C. S. Army, wounding a lieutenant, and taking prisoners 1 major, 1 captain, 1 surgeon, 1 lieutenant, 1 hospital steward, and 13 privates, and destroyed about 3,500 bushels of corn, 300 saddle-trees and machinery for making the same, one 10-pounder cannon, a large amount of leather, whisky, beans, &c.

All along the route from Okolona to Aberdeen large numbers of negroes, horses, and mules were brought in and turned over to the proper officers.

On the arrival of the brigade my regiment was ordered on provost duty, and remained in possession of the town until the troops passed through, when I rejoined the command.

On the 20th, participated in the engagement with the enemy near West Point, capturing Major Dyer, of the C. S. Army, at this place. I destroyed about 200 bushels of white beans that were in store.

On the evening of the 21st, my regiment was ordered to take the rear, which at that time was hotly pressed. I succeeded in ambushing the enemy and checking his advance for the night, with a reported loss to him of 14 killed and 39 wounded.

On the 22d, was in the several engagements on the hills back of Okolona.

On the 24th, made a rapid march to the support of the First Brigade.

On the 25th, a forage party from my regiment captured a captain and private of the rebel army.

My loss in the several engagements is as follows: One killed, 20 wounded, and 10 missing. I captured 2 majors, 2 captains, 3 lieutenants, 1 surgeon, and 33 privates, 140 horses and over 200 mules.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. B. BURGH,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Ninth Illinois Cavalry.*

Lieut. W. S. BELDEN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 50.

*Report of Maj. Datus E. Coon, Second Iowa Cavalry, of operations February 11–26.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND IOWA CAVALRY,
*Germantown, Tenn., February 28, 1864.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to make the following report in regard to the part taken by the Second Iowa Cavalry on the recent raid in the State of Mississippi:

On the 1st day of this month I turned over my camp and garrison equipage at Memphis, and remained with my command and in bivouac on my camping-ground, exposed to the cold weather until the morning of the 5th instant, when I was ordered to Germantown, Tenn. At this place my command was in bivouac until the morning of the 11th.

In accordance with orders from brigade headquarters, my command, consisting of the Second Iowa Cavalry, 860 strong, and 4 pieces of artillery, 12-pounder mountain howitzers, left this place at 3 a. m., moving on the Mount Pleasant road; at 10 a. m. reached the Coldwater at Miller's Mills, and after some trifling repairs on the road passed the swamp and took the Byhalia road, arriving at that place at 3.30 p. m. At this place found Capt. Charles C. Horton, commanding First Battalion, Second Iowa Cavalry, armed with Colt revolving rifles, who had been sent to make necessary repairs at the crossing of the Coldwater, in advance of the command. From Byhalia we took the Chulahoma road for 5 miles and turned east some 4 miles, where we camped for the night.

At 8 a. m. of the 12th, Capt. C. C. Horton, commanding First Battalion, was sent to Chulahoma and to Wyatt Ferry, on the Tallahatchie, if necessary, to communicate with Colonel McMillen, commanding a brigade of infantry. At 8 a. m. the brigade was in motion, the Second Iowa Cavalry having the advance. During the forepart of the day there was very little skirmishing with a party of scouts, who were placed in the vicinity of Tallaloosa, 8 miles southwest of Holly Springs, to watch the movements of our cavalry. Passing to the right of Tallaloosa, we took the road to Cox's plantation, thence turned east, taking the Waterford road. Parties were sent in all directions to ascertain the whereabouts and probable force of the enemy, but no information could be gained of a large force at any point on the Tallahatchie River; but that night pickets were placed at all available crossings on that river, with small scouts or patrols on all roads running north to the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

During the afternoon it was pretty well understood that General Forrest's main force had left Oxford, Miss., his late headquarters, and gone south, some supposed to Grenada. At sunset we reached Old Waterford; at dark the depot and new town of Waterford. A citizen of the place informed us that the telegraph had been in operation up to one hour previous, and of course the enemy had been well posted as to our numbers and all movements made during the 11th and 12th. The Second Brigade camped 3 miles southeast of Waterford, on Brooks' plantation, finding plenty of forage for animals and provision for men.

At 11.30 o'clock of the 13th, the command moved on the road to the Tippah River, crossing at Callahan's Mills and taking the road

to Potts' plantation on the Holly Springs road. Bivouacked for the night on Parson Cooper's plantation.

The command was again in motion at daylight of the 14th on the New Albany road, passing Hickory Flats, and reached New Albany at 2 p. m. At sunset bivouacked 4 miles from this place, on the road toward Pontotoc. Owing to the failure of Colonel Waring's brigade to close up, the whole command remained in bivouac during the whole of the 15th at this place.

On the 16th only 10 miles were made, when we halted at Cherry Creek for Colonel Waring's brigade to close up with the main column.

On the 17th, the whole command being together, was put in motion at 8 a. m., and passed Pontotoc at 11 a. m., and took the Houston road running south. Halted for the night some 10 miles south of Pontotoc.

At daylight of the 18th, the column was again in motion, and, after a march of some 4 miles, took the Okolona road running east. At 4 p. m. we reached that place, and camped 4 miles beyond on the Aberdeen road.

At daylight on the 19th, were again moving on the road to Aberdeen, at which place we arrived at 11 a. m. After a short halt orders were received for us to move on the Prairie Station road, which was obeyed.

From Prairie Station the whole command took, on the morning of the 20th, the West Point road, the Second Iowa Cavalry having the advance. Not over 5 miles had been gained when we came up with a light picket of the enemy, and continued to have light skirmishing for some 5 miles more, when we suddenly ran into a column consisting of about 250, which were quickly scattered by the three saber companies under Capt. George C. Graves.

After a halt of two hours for the column to close up, the march was resumed. Light skirmishing continued for some 3 miles, when the advance encountered a force of about 250. Two companies of rifles were immediately dismounted, and in five minutes the whole party was dispersed. This was not done, however, without the loss of Lieutenant Dwire, Company F, killed, and 4 men wounded.

The enemy had, during this day's skirmish, 1 major seriously wounded in the head, 2 men killed, and 3 wounded. On reaching West Point it was ascertained that the three Forrests (general, colonel, and captain) had just left and passed west across the Sakatonchee River, some 3 miles distant.

Up to the time of reaching West Point the largest force encountered was reported to be 250 or 300. In no case had they made demonstration of a formidable resistance. Having had the advance during the entire day of the 20th, I had good opportunities for gathering information of the location and numbers of Forrest's command, and had at no time placed the force at the Sakatonchee bridge above 2,000 men, and this force without artillery.

When the command was ordered to fall back to Okolona, on the morning of the 21st, I was ordered to take the Second Iowa Cavalry and make a demonstration at the bridge, which I did in the following manner: After dismounting four rifle companies, I advanced them as skirmishers under cover of a fence and in close proximity with the enemy's sharpshooters; I then brought forward two of my 12-pounder howitzers and drove them easily from their fences and houses near the bridge. After some two hours' time used in skir-

mishing with the rifle, and now and then a shell with howitzers, I withdrew, in compliance with orders, thoroughly convinced of two facts, viz, first, that the enemy had no artillery at that place, and, second, that the Federal force was at least 4 to the enemy's 1. In obedience to orders I was in rear. The Second Iowa Cavalry formed the rear guard.

After leaving the bridge some 5 miles, firing commenced in the rear, and increased for an hour, when I was called upon by Capt. George C. Graves, in command of the rear guard, for assistance, as the enemy's force was pressing him and threatening his flanks. One battalion of rifles, under Capt. C. C. Horton, was immediately dismounted and placed behind a fence, and the saber companies brought in. The enemy, thinking the road clear, came up with great boldness. At this time two or three shells and three or four rounds from the rifles checked the movement, when my men retired in good order. From the demonstration of the enemy I deemed it necessary to dismount another battalion of rifles, under Capt. Paul A. Queal, and having eight companies dismounted and the saber companies mounted to guard the flanks, I felt that the rear of the column was quite safe.

It having been reported to me that the enemy were moving on my left flank, I found, on examination, that a column was moving, and saw three stand of colors displayed; but the command to which they belonged could not have been over a battalion each. By the assistance of one battalion of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry I was enabled to withdraw my command across a swamp difficult of passage, and after mounting my men fell back some 3 miles, when I found myself again attacked more furiously than before. At this place the saber companies (mounted), under command of Capt. George C. Graves, did great havoc with their carbines. At one time 8 horses came into his lines with empty saddles. Here again I was compelled to dismount all my rifles, and it was with the greatest difficulty that I got my led horses and howitzers out of the timber in time to save them. My men on foot had become so completely exhausted that I felt sure at one time that one-half of them must be captured.

Lieut. P. L. Reed, who commands the battery, saved one piece in a heroic manner. The two lead horses having been killed in a narrow lane, he was compelled to dismount men and bring off one piece for some distance. Having seen the enemy on both flanks, I sent to Captains Queal and Horton to fall back with their dismounted men as fast as possible, but they had traveled so far that they were nearly exhausted.

Although I had given notice that my command was hard pressed and that I was in great need of re-enforcements, I had been unable to get assistance. Notwithstanding the exhausted condition of the men, they were brought off in the most heroic manner by Capts. C. C. Horton and Paul A. Queal, who pressed in the rear and on both flanks, repulsed the enemy in the rear, and drove back their flanks until they had made good their escape.

On no occasion have I witnessed more determined coolness than on this. There are many officers and soldiers who deserve personal compliment for gallant conduct in the action, but the short space I am allowed here forbids that I should say more than that all, both officers and men, were never more gallant than on this occasion.

After the regiment had reached a point of safety we were relieved by the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, who acted as rear guard for the balance of the day. At night camped near Okolona.

Passed Okolona early on the morning of the 22d, taking the road to Pontotoc. When we had marched some 10 miles on this road, orders were given that a line should be formed by the Second Brigade that the other two brigades might pass by.

By instructions from Brig. Gen. B. H. Grierson, my command was formed upon a high ridge, the riflemen lying close to the ground and the saber companies formed on the right and left flanks to guard against being outflanked. Until this time the enemy had apparently had their own way until they formed themselves within half circles, where bullets from the five-shooting rifles fell like hail. They were easily checked, but pursued continuously for some time afterward.

Capt. Chas. P. Moore, Company K, who guarded the right flank, and Lieutenant Hamilton, Company M, on the left flank, are deserving of great praise for the part performed by them on this occasion.

About 3 p. m. I was ordered by General Grierson to use my regiment as flankers, and guard the left flank, as a column could then be seen threatening the command in that direction. By some misunderstanding one battalion was left flanking late at night, while the balance had flanked along until it reached the head of the column. The result was that one battalion was in rear and the balance in front, and all in compliance with orders. On reaching the front was ordered by General Grierson to move on until a suitable place could be found on which to halt the command.

At 4 a. m. of 23d, the command was again in motion on the Pontotoc [road]. During the forepart of the day a small force followed the rear guard to New Albany, where the pursuit by the enemy appears to have ceased.

Nothing of material interest took place until we arrived at Germantown, Tenn., on the afternoon of the 26th.

The casualties during the entire scout were as follows: First day (20th February), 1 killed, 5 wounded; second day (21st February), 6 killed, 18 wounded, 8 missing; third day (22d February), 1 killed, 4 wounded, 3 missing. Total, 8 killed, 27 wounded, 11 missing. Total, 46.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DATUS E. COON,
*Major, Second Iowa Cavalry, Commanding Regiment.*

First Lieut. W. SCOTT BELDEN,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 51.

*Report of Lieut. Isaac W. Curtis, Battery K, First Illinois Light Artillery, of operations February* 11–26.

GERMANTOWN, TENN.,
*March* 1, 1864.

SIR: Agreeably to order received from you, I proceed to give a report of our march on this raid, commencing the 11th of February:

There was nothing of importance transpired more than forming in battery some several times until the 21st, when we formed and fired some 40 rounds in the prairie to cover the retreat of the Second Iowa Regiment, which had kept them (the rebels) in check until they had expended nearly all of their ammunition.

We were then ordered to fall back to the rear, and on the morning of the 22d we were detached from the Second Brigade and attached to the Third Brigade for the day, as they were in the rear and had no artillery with them. We marched on until about 10 o'clock, when we arrived at Okolona and formed ready for a fight, but were soon ordered to march on. We had not proceeded very far when we were unexpectedly surprised by the presence of fleeing cavalry on both sides of us. They were in perfect confusion; some hallooing, "Go ahead, or we will be killed;" while some few showed a willingness to fight. After some several unsuccessful attempts to form by battery I gave it up, and marched as best I could until I received an order, purporting to come from headquarters, for me to try and save the artillery by marching through the field to the right. I proceeded to comply with orders, and after crossing some two or three almost impassable ditches, and my horses being nearly entirely exhausted, I came to another ditch some 6 feet deep. I managed to get one gun over safe by the men dismounting and taking it over by hand, and one other, which by the time we got it over was broken so we had to leave it. I ordered them to cut the horses loose and cut the gearing up, and go ahead with the gun and lead horses. I kept the orderly sergeant, 1 corporal, and 2 privates back to help me destroy the ammunition and spike the guns, and when we left them we left them effectually disabled, for the present at any rate. I then proceeded to gather up my company with my single gun, and marched with the Ninth Illinois battery* during the rest of our march.

I lost 30 horses during the march. Some of them I lost in the stampede, but most of them were worn out on march. I still have 80 horses, part serviceable and part unserviceable. I lost my 5 pack-saddles. The men and negroes, they say, were ordered to leave them in the stampede, and I couldn't find them any more. Nothing more worth note transpired.

Yours, respectfully,

I. W. CURTIS,
*Lieutenant, Company K, First Illinois Light Artillery.*

Col. WILLIAM P. HEPBURN.

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No. 52.

*Report of Col. La Fayette McCrillis, Third Illinois Cavalry, commanding Third Brigade, of operations February* 10–26.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE,
*Germantown, Tenn., February* 29, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my brigade during the recent expedition into Mississippi:

On the 10th instant, by order of General W. S. Smith, I marched from Collierville with an effective force of 1,900 men, crossed the Coldwater at Quinn's Mill and camped that night at Raiford's plantation, 4 miles east of Byhalia.

February 11, remained in camp by order of General Smith. Lost

*Operated by men of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry.

2 men killed and 2 wounded on picket that night, and captured 4 prisoners, which I sent immediately to Collierville.

February 12, by order of General Smith, I marched at daylight toward Holly Springs. Passed through that place, crossed Chewalla Creek, at Boatwright's Mills, and camped near burnt mill on Tippah Creek. My advance guard were skirmishing with a few rebels nearly all day, with a loss of 3 killed, 2 wounded, and 1 taken prisoner.

February 13, I crossed Tippah Creek at daylight, and pushed forward to within 2 miles of New Albany, and ordered the Second Tennessee Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Cook, to march rapidly to New Albany, secure the bridge, and make all repairs necessary for crossing the troops. This order was executed immediately. By your order I sent back from this point one company to communicate with Colonel Waring and deliver your order to move to New Albany with all possible dispatch.

On the morning of the 14th, I moved my whole brigade across the Tallahatchie, and awaited orders. I soon received your order to move toward the Rocky Ford and Pontotoc road and camp from 3 to 5 miles from New Albany, and accordingly moved out and camped at the plantation of a Mr. Duncan, and remained there till the morning of the 16th instant, when I moved, by your order, to Sewell's plantation, 1 mile east of the New Albany and Pontotoc road, and 8 miles from Pontotoc.

On the morning of the 17th, in obedience to your orders, I moved out my brigade in advance of the division, and marched on Pontotoc. Arriving there, sent strong detachments toward Oxford, Coffeeville, and Okolona, and moved south on the Houston road, 8 miles from Pontotoc, with slight skirmishing. Camped at the plantation of Robert Puliman, and sent Captain Kirkbride, with the Third Illinois Cavalry, to push the enemy 3 or 4 miles in advance. Captain Kirkbride drove the enemy into a swamp about 4 miles in advance, killed 7 rebels and wounded many, and returned to camp at 9 p. m.

February 18, at 3.30 a. m., by your orders, I sent Captain Kirkbride, with the Third Illinois Cavalry, and Captain Kilborn, commanding scouts, back to Pontotoc, thence to Okolona, and Lieutenant-Colonel Thornburgh, with the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, to press the enemy toward Houston, which he did until the division had passed on the road east to Okolona, when he fell back and closed up to the rear of my brigade, which was the rear of the division.

February 19, in obedience to orders from General Smith, I sent a detachment of the Second Tennessee Cavalry, under Major Prosser, toward Houston. He proceeded to within 6 or 8 miles of Houston, fell upon and engaged the rear guard of Chalmers' brigade, then moving southward, drove them as far as Buena Vista, then fell back on the Pikeville road, and rejoined the brigade at midnight, 7 miles southeast of Pikeville. At 7 a. m. I moved my brigade direct to Pikeville, thence on the road 7 miles toward Aberdeen, and camped.

February 20, I marched to within 2½ miles of West Point.

February 21, by General Smith's order, I moved out at 8 a. m., and marched back to within 3½ miles of Okolona.

On the 22d, the brigade was ordered to move in the rear of the division. We moved at 10.30 a. m. toward Okolona, and were immediately attacked in the rear by about 400 of the enemy and an equal number on the flanks, which were successfully kept in check by the

Second Tennessee Cavalry, my rear guard, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Cook, and with whom I had ordered a staff officer to remain.

On approaching Okolona I was informed by a staff officer that a regiment of rebels had left the right flank and crossed the field toward Okolona. I immediately ordered the Fifth Kentucky, Major Cheek, to advance on our right flank and protect our column in passing that place.

On arriving at Okolona General Grierson directed me to form my brigade in line of battle, which was immediately done, and the general, with the Fourth U. S. Cavalry and Seventh Indiana, by charging and skirmishing with the enemy, tried to bring on a fight, which the rebels declined.

General Grierson then ordered me to move out, send a regiment to the left, look out for the flanks, and move as rapidly as practicable, and he would leave the Fourth Regulars, commanded by Captain Bowman, to protect the rear. I ordered the Third Illinois to the left to protect that flank, and scouts to the right to report if any enemy were in that direction, and ordered the column into the lane on the Pontotoc road, as directed.

About a mile from town the column was obstructed by the breaking down of the wheel of a limber of the battery in command of Lieut. I. W. Curtis, Company K, First Illinois Light Artillery, which you assigned to my command that morning. The scouts on my right reported the enemy advancing, and the Third Illinois in advance on the left being obstructed by a thick undergrowth, I ordered Captain Kirkbride with his command across the road to the right into an open field to protect the right flank, and as the Third Tennessee were moving out of town, waiting for the advance to get out of the way, the Fourth Regulars and Second Tennessee were attacked by a superior force, who endeavored to cut them off from the balance of the brigade, and after charging gallantly back on the enemy into town, being about to be outflanked, were forced to retire in haste upon the column.

At this time the column in front moved suddenly and rapidly, as the firing commenced in the rear and a column of the enemy on our right charged down on the Third Illinois. I sent forward to re-enforce the Third Illinois on our right, and to halt the column and re-enforce the rear. While giving the order the Third Tennessee, Major Minnis, came up, and I ordered him into an open field on our left, to form and protect the Second Tennessee and Fourth Regulars, who were hard pressed and outflanked by a superior force. While Major Minnis was executing the order with most of his command, the Second Tennessee and Fourth Regulars were forced upon the rear of the column by the enemy in rear and flank, and the Third Tennessee about to be cut off from the column, I ordered them back to the road. While executing the order they were driven in on the Second Tennessee and Fourth Regulars, and charged on in rear and flank, and all three of the last named regiments became entirely disorganized by being mixed up.

I moved forward and formed the Fourth Tennessee on our left and the Fifth Kentucky on our right, when the enemy, by a movement on their flanks, forced them to retire to prevent being cut off from the main column.

The Seventy-second Indiana, Major Carr, had formed on our right, but were pressed back by the Second and Third Tennessee and

Fourth Regulars and stragglers, who broke his line, and he had to fall back after giving the enemy a momentary check, who passed on his flank to cut his regiment off from the rest of the command.

I then passed on to the head of the disorganized regiments, and found General Grierson and part of his staff officers trying to check the column, and with their aid and part of my own staff and several officers of the Fourth Regulars, Captain Bowman, Lieutenants Sullivan, Davis, and others, and found it only partially practicable. Here Captain Bowman, of the Fourth Regulars, soon extricated most of his command from the Second and Third Tennessee and stragglers, and rendered efficient service and assistance in checking the advance of the enemy.

Here I sent a staff officer, Captain Booth, with a request to General Grierson, who had gone forward, that he form a line of battle of the Second Brigade and let the disorganized regiments and stragglers pass through that they might reorganize, and immediately received word he had already done so, and to pass the regiments to the front, where they soon reorganized.

The Seventy-second Indiana, Fifth Kentucky, Fourth Tennessee, and Third Illinois acted the whole day with the coolness and courage and discipline not excelled by any troops, and never left any position ordered into by the commanding general or myself until outflanked or ordered back.

Had it not been for the detention caused by the accident happening to the battery, I am confident that we should have been able to have secured our column from the heavy flanking forces, which were endeavoring to cut off some of the regiments in the rear, without any confusion or disorganization of the Second and Third Tennessee and Fourth Regulars. Lieutenant Curtis, commanding the battery, did all that energy and courage could do under adverse circumstances.

I earnestly and respectfully recommend to your consideration, and through you to the Governors of the several States where the troops were raised, and Secretary of War, the promotion of Maj. C. T. Cheek, commanding Fifth Kentucky Cavalry, for bravery in action and skill in handling his men under trying circumstances, and for the same reasons Maj. H. M. Carr, Seventy-second Indiana Mounted Infantry; Capt. A. B. Kirkbride, commanding Third Illinois Cavalry; Lieut. Col. J. M. Thornburgh, Fourth Tennessee Cavalry; Major Prosser, Second Tennessee, and Major Minnis, Third Tennessee Cavalry.

I cannot too highly commend the conduct of my staff officers to your attention, who, with experience and judgment, used every exertion to aid in the repulse of the enemy, and earnestly and respectfully recommend them for promotion as capable and gallant officers, of often-tried courage and military skill; and the public service requires their promotion for meritorious conduct on many a battlefield.

On the 23d, about 4 miles north of Pontotoc, Colonel Hepburn sent word his column was hard pressed in the rear, and General Grierson ordered me to leave two regiments and send one to the right to protect the right flank. I accordingly formed the Fifth Kentucky and Third Illinois, one on each side of the road, and sent the Third Tennessee to hold a road running parallel with the one over which our column was passing, and which led into the main road, about 5 miles south of New Albany, and ordered Major Minnis

to retire on that road as our rear guard moved on and protect that flank. These orders were well executed.

After the Second Brigade had passed the line of the Fifth Kentucky and Third Illinois these two regiments were vigorously attacked by the enemy, and maintained a severe fight, repulsing every charge of the enemy for 5 miles, when the enemy retired, and we marched to New Albany without further molestation.

After a few hours' halt at New Albany, by your order I moved out toward Holly Springs, and marched all night, except a three-hours' halt at Hickory Flat; crossed Tippah at Beck's Spring, 8 a. m., on the 24th. After marching about 5 miles farther, halted for the First Brigade to come up, and repaired the bridge over Tippah Creek to facilitate its crossing. About 2 p. m. I received a message from Colonel Waring that he was attacked at the creek by about 3,000 rebels, and immediately formed my brigade in line of battle, and so remained until about 9 o'clock in the evening, when the rear of the First Brigade passed me, and I immediately took up my line of march, and arrived in Germantown on the 26th instant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. McCRILLIS,
*Colonel, Commanding Third Brigade, Cavalry Division.*

Capt. S. L. WOODWARD,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 53.

*Report of Capt. Andrew B. Kirkbride, Third Illinois Cavalry, of operations February* 13–26.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
*Germantown, Tenn., February* 27, 1864.

SIR: On the evening of the 13th February, I was ordered by Colonel McCrillis, commanding brigade, to proceed to Collins' Mill with my command, 7 miles out on Salem road from where brigade was camped at Widow Collins'.

Proceeded there immediately, and arrived at the mill at sundown. Ordered Company B to charge down on the mill and catch any of the enemy who might be there. Lieutenant Shellenberger did so. The enemy, to the number of 20, being on the alert, made their escape in the woods. Found no meal or flour. Got forage for my command, and returned to camp at 9 p. m.

On 17th, my command being in advance of brigade and division, charged into Pontotoc at 11 a. m. No enemy there. Proceeded through town on Houston road, 2 miles out; found enemy's picket, who by hard running made their escape. Kept the road and flanks completely clear of all enemy. Camped within 2 miles of Red Land. Ordered out by colonel commanding brigade on Houston road to proceed 3 or 4 miles and learn of any enemy to be found in our front. Two miles out found Gholson's command. Lieutenant Lucas, in charge of Companies H and C, charged the rebels and drove them in a swamp immediately in our front. On examining the position of the enemy, I found that if I advanced with my whole force I would have been completely flanked. Ordered Company M

to flank on Red Land road, and Company B on road leading to the right. Dismounted Companies F and H to skirmish in swamp, and Company C to support them mounted. Advanced my skirmishers, under fire from the enemy, 200 yards in the swamp, and found that the enemy were in force superior to mine. Being in danger of being flanked, I reported the fact by an orderly to Colonel McCrillis, who ordered me to retire, the object of the reconnaissance being accomplished. Learnt from Colonel Thornburgh, who advanced through the swamp next morning, that we killed 7 of the enemy. My loss 1 man, prisoner.

On 18th, ordered by colonel commanding brigade to march at 3.30 o'clock, with my command and Captain Kilborn's company of scouts, to go back to Pontotoc and learn if any enemy was there, and thence proceed direct to Okolona; did so, met but few of the enemy, and drove them. Arrived at Okolona at 2 p. m.; ordered out on Red Land road to join the brigade, and camp 3 miles out; did so, joining the brigade at sundown.

On 22d, Colonel McCrillis commanding, when line of battle was formed I was ordered to form my command to the left of the Pontotoc road, in the edge of first timber out of Okolona; did so. As column was passing out of town, I was ordered to move my command on left flank in column. Found, on account of thick brush and rapid movement of main column, rather difficult, but did so. Ordered to form line of battle on first ground that I could do so on the left of road. Moved out to form and was forming, when a mass of troops, moving very rapidly, passed through my line, who carried my men away by main force. Collected part of Company H and a few men of other companies under Lieutenant Lucas. Fought the enemy every foot of the way back, Lieutenant Davis, of the Fourth Regulars, and Lieutenant Sullivan, adjutant of same regiment, doing the same, and in conjunction with them we endeavored to stay the progress of the enemy, that our dismounted and wounded men might get away.

A mile or two back found Lieutenant Shellenberger with a mixed command, mostly Third men, formed in line, who had been rallied by himself and Captain Perkins, acting assistant inspector-general of brigade. Took command and fell back in rear of Seventh Indiana in a very orderly manner, where we formed. Reported the fact to you and received permission to fall back in rear of column and reorganize my command. On my way back reported to General Grierson, who ordered me on right flank. Went there, and, the column being in rapid retreat, was forced after an hour or two to fall into road.

Ordered by General Smith to dismount and fight on foot; did so, forming my men in line with Second Iowa. Enemy being reported to have flanked us, I rode out to see. While in my momentary absence some officer unknown ordered the troops to rally on their horses and move to the rear. On learning the fact I sent Lieutenant Lucas to bring them back, but it growing dark, the enemy fell back and the fight was over. I may state that during the absence of my command I did all I could to encourage and rally other commands.

On 23d, the column being in line of march from Pontotoc to New Albany, I was dropped out of brigade in center of column to act as rear guard for division, with Fifth Kentucky for support. Ordered not to fight the enemy, only sufficient to keep him from molesting column and staying the march.

The column having passed, my command was attacked by about

300 of the enemy, with a column moving on right flank. Kept up a running fight for two hours, and at a creek 9 miles from New Albany put an effectual stop to the enemy with the assistance of three companies of Fifth Kentucky under Major Cheek; relieved as rear guard by Sixth Illinois, my horses being played out.

My total loss so far as I can learn is 3 killed, 1 wounded mortally, 1 dangerously, and 8 missing.

I would just add that my force in any fighting did not exceed 150 men, and on the 23d not more than 60. As our movements had to be rapid, I was compelled to keep my worst mounted men with the main column.

I must also report the fact that Captain Lay disgraced the good name of the regiment by retiring with a portion of his company (F) at first fire on both days.* Lieutenants Lucas, Company M, and Shellenberger, Company B, behaved very gallantly. Sergeants Graham, Company B; Onion, Galliher, Kingery, Company H, and Tricket, Company F, were conspicuous for bravery.

Respectfully submitted.

A. B. KIRKBRIDE,
*Captain, Commanding Third Illinois Cavalry.*

Colonel MCCRILLIS.

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No. 54.

*Report of Maj. Henry M. Carr, Seventy-second Indiana Infantry (mounted), of operations February 22.*

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTY-SECOND INDIANA VOLUNTEERS,
*Germantown, Tenn., February 27, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my command in the engagement on the 22d of February, 1864, on the road between Okolona and Pontotoc, Miss.:

In the first line of battle, formed in the town of Okolona, I was ordered by you to dismount the command and support the First Illinois Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Curtis, and to remain there until the rear of the column (then on the march) had passed, which I did. I was then ordered by you to mount my command and resume my place in the column in the order of march, our line having been relieved by the Fourth U. S. Cavalry. A very few minutes after leaving Okolona heavy firing was heard in our rear. General Grierson, being near my regiment at the time, ordered me to dismount the regiment and deploy it along the fence to my left and support the First Illinois Artillery, which was placed in position on the hill in my rear. I did so, remaining there until it was ascertained that a heavy force of the enemy were marching in column on our left flank. Seeing that the artillery had fallen back and that the commands in my front were retiring, I withdrew the regiment, stopping to skirmish with the enemy at every available point on the road, until we passed through the line formed by the Second Brigade. I was then ordered by Lieutenant Ingerton, acting assistant adjutant-general on the staff of General Smith, to move forward and form my

*Captain Lay appears to have continued on duty with his company, and was mustered out on expiration of term September 5, 1864.

command at the first good position on the right of the road to resist the advance of a column of the enemy who were reported approaching on the right flank. I took the position, supported on my right by 100 men, ordered to report to me from the Second East Tennessee Cavalry, and remained there until ordered by you to form my regiment on the opposite side of the road behind a fence on the crest of a hill. We were scarcely in place before the enemy advanced upon us in heavy force, firing very rapidly. We immediately returned the fire and succeeded in checking the advance, but they kept up a very heavy fire during the whole time we were engaged. Having but thirty-five rounds of cartridges to the man, I withdrew the regiment, as ordered by Captain Perkins, acting assistant inspector-general of the brigade, as soon as he had succeeded in forming a line in our rear. Captain Kilborn, commanding the company of scouts, operated with my regiment during the engagement and behaved very gallantly.

In this last engagement and during the entire day the officers and men of my command all behaved in a becoming and soldierly manner. The men were perfectly cool and did good execution.

Two of the officers of the enemy were killed, and I am confident their losses were much more serious than ours. In our losses I am very sorry to report the death of Lieutenant Priest, of Company E, who was a very good and gallant officer, and loved by the entire command.* Captain Thomson and Lieutenants Cassell and Sims were wounded, the last two seriously.

The following is the number of killed, wounded, and missing: Killed, 2 (1 officer and 1 enlisted man); wounded, 14 (3 officers and 11 enlisted men); missing, 10 (mostly supposed killed or seriously wounded); total, 26.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. CARR,
*Major, Commanding Regiment.*

Lieutenant PIKE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 55.

*Report of Maj. Christopher T. Cheek, Fifth Kentucky Cavalry, of operations February 22–23.*

HDQRS. FIFTH KENTUCKY CAVALRY VOLUNTEERS,
*Germantown, Tenn., February 27, 1864.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by my command in the late engagements with the enemy on the 22d and 23d instant:

My regiment was first formed in line of battle at Okolona, Miss., February 22, and was withdrawn from the line and ordered forward on the Pontotoc road by Colonel McCrillis, commanding the Third Brigade.

I moved as directed about 2 miles, when I received orders from him to halt, and directly after from General Grierson to form in a

* Lieutenant Priest was not killed; he was captured and subsequently died in the hands of the enemy.

field on the right of the road and resist the enemy, who was pressing on the rear. My regiment was immediately formed, as directed, and was soon engaged in a sharp skirmish with them, lasting about fifteen minutes, and completely checking the head of their column. A movement by them on my flank obliged me to retire, but not until the entire brigade had passed by me and was retiring.

I retired about 2 miles farther and formed my command on the right of the road, the Fourth Tennessee, Lieutenant-Colonel Thornburgh, being on the left. No fighting ensued here, as I was ordered to fall back as successive lines were formed in my rear.

My regiment was formed some seven or eight times during the day on the rear and flanks of the brigade, and, although twice under fire, we were unable to return it from our position and the short range of our carbines.

Just at dusk we were formed in line, dismounted, and behind a fence to the right of the road. At this point a battery and the regiment supporting it were forced to retire in some confusion by a heavy force of the enemy. The battery was in the rear, and when my men opened fire the enemy were in close pursuit and ordering the artillerists to halt. Their advance was soon driven back to the main body, and a sharp fight maintained for about twenty minutes, the enemy using a few pieces of light artillery. They then fell back, however, and I was soon after ordered to follow in rear of the brigade. Night had now set in, and only a few more shots were exchanged till daylight.

The next morning, the 23d instant, my regiment was moved out in the advance of the brigade, and about 10 a. m. was ordered to the rear of the division, with the Third Illinois Cavalry, Captain Kirkbride commanding, the enemy being reported pressing the rear.

I then had about 150 men in my command, many having had their horses shot under them in the previous day's fighting and others being broken down. I formed the regiment as directed dismounted, and on the right and left of the road, the Third Illinois being on my left. After waiting half an hour or more for the enemy, a few appeared, but a few shots dispersed them, and as no more appeared we shortly retired in the direction of the column, the Third Illinois being in my rear.

We were soon followed by the enemy, and a sudden attack made on the rear of the Third Illinois by a force far outnumbering them, which forced them to retire. I immediately formed my men on the right and left of the road and on the north side of creek to support them as they fell back.

The enemy at once opened a very hot fire upon us from the timber on the opposite side of the creek, and my men being in the open field, I ordered them to fall back to a skirt of woods on the other side of it. Another line was here formed at once, and a brisk skirmish ensued for nearly half an hour, in which I was supported by the Third Illinois Cavalry, the enemy not being over 200 yards distant.

After they fell back I moved out toward New Albany, remaining in rear of the column till we reached the town, none of the enemy appearing in sight. Colonel McCrillis here ordered us to rejoin the brigade and cross the Tallahatchie River. The regiment marched from there with the brigade to this point.

I cannot too highly commend the conduct of the officers and men of my regiment. All did their duty and acted in the best possible

manner. Individuals cannot be singled out where each did all he could. The list of casualties in my command is slight. It is as follows.*

I have the honor to remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. T. CHEEK,
*Major, Commanding Fifth Kentucky Cavalry Vols.*

Lieut. R. W. PIKE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 56.

*Report of Maj. William R. McBath, Second Tennessee Cavalry, of operations February* 10–26.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND EAST TENNESSEE CAVALRY,
*Germantown, Tenn., February* 28, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor very respectfully to submit the following report of the part taken by the Second Tennessee Cavalry in the late expedition under General William S. Smith into the State of Mississippi:

Leaving Collierville on the 10th instant with the rest of the brigade, we proceeded on our route, doing the usual amount of picket duty and occasionally some slight skirmishing with the enemy, nothing of particular interest, however, occurring in the earlier part of our march.

At New Albany, where we crossed the Tallahatchie, being in the advance of the column, we captured 6 prisoners and sent them to the rear.

Passing through Pontotoc, the brigade camped on the night of the 18th instant within 3 miles of Okolona, and on the morning of the 19th Major Prosser received orders to move with 200 men, at 5.30 a. m., to the southwest, in the direction of Houston, while the brigade moved directly south, in the direction of Pikeville; then turn to the left and rejoin the brigade near Egypt.

Moving according to instructions, he came upon a scouting party of rebels, 3 miles from camp, numbering 25 or 30, but as they were well mounted could capture nothing but their pack-mules. One and one-half miles farther, drove in their pickets at the forks of the Pontotoc, Okolona, and Houston roads, and going 5 miles farther toward Houston turned to the left on the Buena Vista road, and after marching 6 miles came upon the pickets of General Gholson's camp, at the forks of the Okolona, Pontotoc, Buena Vista, and Houston roads, 10 miles south of Okolona.

General Gholson's brigade had been camped at this place, but had all moved in the direction of West Point except General Gholson and about 400 men. His pickets were aware of Major Prosser's approach and were prepared to contest his advance, but after some warm skirmishing they were driven in. The whole command was routed from their camp and pursued about 2 miles in the direction of West Point.

The designs of the enemy to concentrate at West Point having

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 2 officers and 3 men wounded and 3 men missing.

been developed, he returned, recrossed the [Sakatonchee] River about 3 miles above Pikeville, and reached the camp of the brigade at 7 p. m., reported at brigade and division headquarters, and received the thanks of the general commanding the expedition.

The day following, the regiment marched south with the brigade, but was ordered back to picket the [Tombigbee] river at Gladney's Mills, where some slight skirmishing took place with the enemy. We remained there until 5 p. m., when we were ordered to rejoin the brigade, which we did at 12 o'clock midnight, near West Point.

On the return of the command from West Point, nothing of interest occurred with the regiment until the morning of the 22d instant, when it was assigned as the rear guard of the column from the camp occupied by the command the preceding night, 3½ miles south of Okolona. The moment the advance of the rear guard, under the command of Major Prosser, was sounded, a furious attack was made upon it by the enemy, but being prepared to receive them they were repulsed with considerable loss, as they were in every attack made upon us until we reached Okolona; the gallant and steady behavior of the men preventing the enemy from making any impression upon our column.

At Okolona the regiment, having but 275 men for duty, exclusive of details, was relieved by the Fourth U. S. Regulars, who were ordered to bring up the rear, and my regiment was ordered to join the column then in line of march on the Pontotoc road.

This change had scarcely been made when a heavy column of the enemy was discovered moving upon the rear through the town of Okolona, while another column moved rapidly on the left flank with the evident intention of cutting off two or three of our regiments in the rear, if not the whole brigade. The Fourth Regulars charged into the head of the column advancing upon them, but were immediately repulsed and driven back with considerable loss, Major Prosser in the mean time moving six companies, or about 130 men, out of the column into line to support their retreat, as they were retiring rapidly before the enemy, and throwing the rear of the column, as they struck it, into confusion.

Here, while endeavoring to check the progress of the enemy, the regiment lost Lieutenant-Colonel Cook and 14 men killed and wounded in a few moments; but we succeeded by great exertions in checking the enemy while the Fourth Regulars retreated upon the column. Although we were obliged to fall back rapidly before the enemy in consequence of his movements upon our flanks as well as rear, we continued to keep up a spirited fire upon his advancing columns, until the disorder produced by the retreat of the Fourth Regulars partially destroyed the organization of the regiment. No demoralization, however, took place, and as soon as the first supporting line was passed the regiment at once rallied, was immediately reorganized, and did good service throughout the day, particularly in the evening, when 100 men, dismounted, reported to Major Carr, Seventy-second Indiana, for duty as skirmishers, remaining with Major Prosser on the ground in the face of the enemy until the line gave way on their right and left.

The next day the regiment again supported the Seventy-second Indiana when in line of battle, but no fighting afterward occurred worthy of mention in which we were engaged.

Altogether the officers and men deserve credit for cool conduct and good behavior under the most trying circumstances.

Our loss as far as reported is 15, including Lieutenant-Colonel Cook, supposed to be mortally wounded,* while the others are all believed to have been either killed or wounded.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. McBATH,
*Major, Commanding.*

Lieutenant PIKE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 57.

*Report of Maj. John B. Minnis, Third Tennessee Cavalry, of operations February* 10–26.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD TENNESSEE CAVALRY,
*Germantown, Tenn., February* 27, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Third Tennessee Cavalry in the recent expedition under General W. Sooy Smith into Mississippi:

Leaving Collierville, Tenn., on the 10th instant with the brigade, this regiment accompanied it during the entire march, performing its part of the picket duty, scouting, &c., until proceeding as far as West Point, and returning to within 3 miles of Okolona, where the brigade encamped on the night of the 21st instant.

On the morning of the 22d, I was ordered to follow the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, the Second Tennessee Cavalry bringing up the rear of the brigade. For 3 miles before reaching Okolona, the Second Tennessee Cavalry skirmished with the enemy. At Okolona you offered battle.

In accordance with your orders, this regiment was formed on the left flank. The enemy were maneuvering in front of us, and the men coolly awaited their advance. Immediately I received orders from you to withdraw my men in column of fours, move forward, and keep well closed up. In obeying this order, and while moving rapidly to close up, for the advance regiments were moving very fast, the rear of my regiment was fired into by the enemy, and heavy firing was heard to the left of my rear, and simultaneously the enemy passed each flank and commenced firing into the advance regiments. At the same time the Second Tennessee and Fourth U. S. Cavalry, with much confusion, pressed upon my rear, and many passed through my column.

Receiving orders from you a second time to move forward, I was assigned by you to a position on the right of the road, which was held until I received orders from you to fall back in column, as a heavy force of the enemy was moving to cut me off from the main column.

In withdrawing my men this time, by force of circumstances they became more or less mixed with those from other regiments. I however continued to keep a goodly number of them together, and alternately fought and fell back until I received orders from you to

* He survived his wounds.

pass through the Second Brigade and rally my men, which being accomplished I was placed, by order of General Smith, on the right flank, and repulsed the advancing enemy on said flank just previous to the repulse of the enemy in the [front] and on the left flank. No engagement took place after this in which this regiment was engaged worthy of notice.

The loss sustained by this regiment in killed, wounded, and missing was 5, viz, 2 wounded and 3 missing.

I trust you will consider the inexperience of the major commanding and the men under him in the field, and give justice to all.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. MINNIS,
*Major, Commanding.*

Lieut. R. W. PIKE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 58.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Jacob M. Thornburgh, Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, of operations February* 10–26.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH TENNESSEE CAVALRY,
*Germantown, Tenn., February* 27, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry while detached from the brigade at Pontotoc and near Red Land, also at Prairie Station, and during the engagement at Okolona:

At Pontotoc, by your order, I sent Major Blackman, with one battalion, to make a feint on the Oxford road, while I advanced with part of the other in the direction of Coffeeville. Having proceeded about 4 miles and finding no road leading from Coffeeville to Red Land, I returned to Pontotoc, united the command, and overtook the brigade at camp.

At 3 o'clock next morning, according to your order, I moved forward on the Houston road to cover the move of our forces toward Okolona. Finding the enemy's picket at the junction of the Okolona and Houston roads, I dismounted 100 men, together with a detachment of the Third Illinois, under Lieutenant [S. T. Lucas ?], and drove the enemy toward Houston into a swamp about one-half mile beyond the junction of the roads. Then throwing out a few mounted men on both flanks, I advanced through the swamp, skirmishing with the enemy until daylight. Having reached a bridge torn up by the enemy over a small stream, and repaired the bridge, I crossed the stream and came on the camp of the enemy, about 4 miles from our camp, and drove them off without loss on our side.

At this point I received orders to fall back in rear of the brigade, which I did, marching in rear of the brigade throughout the day.

Near Prairie Station I was ordered to proceed to the railroad, tear the same up, and destroy all property belonging to the rebel government.

At the station I found 4 freight-cars loaded with flour and meal and 28 pens of corn, also the depot filled with corn, all of which I burned. I then tore up the track and bent the rails by burning

them over the fire made by cross-ties; then returned to the brigade, which I found just leaving camp for West Point.

On returning from West Point to Okolona, by your order, I formed in front of the Seventy-second Indiana Mounted Infantry, and in the rear of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry, with the First Illinois Battery* on my left, for the purpose of charging the enemy if the column should be attacked while passing.

No attack being made at that time, I received your order to fall back in column in the regular order of march, which I did. After marching about 1 mile I heard the order "halt" passed up from the rear. Having halted, I rode back to the rear of the First Battalion. I found the Second Battalion, under Major Stephens, moving to the rear, when I moved back with the First Battalion, following up the Second, when directed by Colonel McCrillis to form on the right in the field, which I attempted to do, but the rush from the rear was such that I found it impossible to move my column or form a line, as it was broken in several places and a portion of it carried off by the rushing mass from the rear. Then moving back, collecting my men, I commenced forming near some buildings, where a road intersects coming from the south.

Learning that the enemy was advancing on this road and unless checked would cut off the Second Tennessee Cavalry and Fourth U. S. Cavalry, I moved down the road about 400 yards, formed in line in the woods, where we poured several volleys into the enemy, and held them in check until the column had passed. From there I fell back, forming several lines, checking the enemy, and at one time charged the enemy and drove them back.

After passing the line formed by the Second Brigade, I was ordered by General Smith to move forward to the pack train, rest my horses, and collect my stragglers, which having done I dismounted my men, formed them on the right of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry behind a fence on a ridge, where we severely punished the enemy, holding my position until the enemy had taken possession of a ridge in our right rear, when I fell back with the column, the enemy ceasing to press us.

The regiment lost 11 men killed, 2 officers and 16 men wounded and 5 men missing; total loss, 34.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. THORNBURGH,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieut. R. W. PIKE,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 59.

*Reports of Col. James H. Coates, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, commanding Yazoo Expedition.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES, YAZOO RIVER,
*On Board Steamer Des Moines, February 3, 1864.*

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that my command encountered the enemy to-day in considerable force, variously estimated at

* Battery K, First Illinois Light Artillery.

from 2,300 to 2,500, under command of Brigadier-General Ross, and his troops were composed of Arkansas and Texas men and veterans in the Confederate service.

We have been following them closely and carefully for the past two days, and this morning they opened fire upon one of our gun-boats with two pieces of field artillery without, however, doing any damage to the boats. I at once disembarked about 250 of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry, under the command of Maj. George C. McKee, Eleventh Illinois Infantry. He was not long in coming upon the enemy, and at once engaged him with his line of skirmishers.

The hills in this vicinity (between Satartia and Liverpool) are almost mountainous and difficult of assault, yet our skirmishers steadily advanced and drove them from their first position. They rallied, however, but not until I had thrown out to the right of his (McKee's) line one wing of the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Peebles, Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent.

I now finding both detachments closely pressed, ordered the balance of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry, consisting of about 300 men, under the command of Capt. H. C. Vore, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, to their support, throwing the latter as a reserve and in the rear of about the center of the line of skirmishers. The enemy now opened briskly with two pieces of artillery (apparently 12-pounders), also infantry fire. He at this time attempted to flank us on our right, but I met his movements by ordering out the balance of my force, the remaining battalion of the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, under command of Captain Wilson, Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent.

Major McKee at this time gallantly charged their line and was repulsed with a loss of 2 killed and 5 wounded.

The enemy then charged on that part of the line commanded by Capt. H. C. Vore, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, but was nobly repulsed without any loss on our side, and were fairly driven beyond the hill, the possession of which we were contending for.

Both detachments of the Eighth Louisiana, African descent, nobly performed their part of the duty assigned them and acquitted themselves most handsomely, displaying the courage, coolness, and discipline of the most experienced troops.

I would respectfully state that I was materially assisted in the day's operation by a detachment of 35 men of the First Mississippi Cavalry, under command of Major Cook, First Mississippi Cavalry, who I took on board at Haynes' Bluff to accompany me on the expedition for recruiting purposes for the benefit of that regiment, and who have proven of incalculable benefit to me as scouts, &c.

As night approached I gave the signal for the detachments to fall back to the boats, the gun-boats covering this movement with well-directed shell.

I am now dropping down the river, where I shall go for about 1 mile, and will make another attack on the enemy at daylight tomorrow morning.

I have the honor to report my available strength as follows: Eleventh Illinois Infantry, 560; Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, 387; First Mississippi Cavalry, African descent, 35.

I have the honor also to report the casualties of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry: Killed, 4; wounded, 12; missing, 8. Eighth

Louisiana Infantry, African descent, killed, 2; Second Lieutenant Welch and 7 privates wounded (some mortally). First Mississippi Cavalry, African descent, wounded, 1 (slightly).

Respectfully,

JAS. H. COATES,
*Col. 11th Ill. Inf., and Comdg. Land Forces, Yazoo Expedition.*

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

I would further report that one of the transports of the expedition (the Platte Valley) has been disabled by running into a snag, and I will be obliged to send her back to Vicksburg at the first opportunity.

Yours, &c.,

JAS. H. COATES,
*Colonel Eleventh Illinois Infantry.*

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HDQRS. U. S. FORCES, ON BOARD STEAMER DES MOINES,
*Yazoo River, near Satartia, February* 6, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to respectfully continue my report of the movements of this expedition to this date.

On the morning of the 4th instant, at 4.30 o'clock, I left our landing near Satartia and proceeded without interruption up the Yazoo until, when opposite the bluffs where we had engaged the enemy the day before, the enemy opened a heavy fire upon the transports (having permitted the advance gun-boats to pass unmolested), which was returned briskly and I think effectually by my men from behind hastily constructed barricades composed of knapsacks, boxes of hard bread, &c.

The loss on our side from this fire is as follows, viz: Steamer Des Moines, right wing Eleventh Illinois Infantry, 1 man wounded severely in ankle; Sioux City, left wing Eleventh Illinois Infantry, 3 men wounded severely; steamer J. H. Lacey, right wing Eighth Louisiana Infantry, 1 man mortally wounded. The rear gun-boat opened with well-directed shell against the enemy, which dispersed them before the transports could be landed.

We then passed on up the river, arriving in the afternoon at Goosey's Mill, about 4 miles below Yazoo City, having in the transit stopped at several plantations and secured about 200 bales of cotton, which, as received on boats, were constructed into barricades and used for protection to boilers. We also secured at a deserted plantation 9 head of beef-cattle and 12 head of mules.

At 9.30 p. m. the steamer Hastings made her appearance with clearances, passes, &c., from the Treasury Department, and is now consequently attached to our fleet. She had also been fired into at the same point our transports were (near Liverpool) and the watchman of the boat seriously wounded.

I remained at Goosey's Mill during the day of February 5, and at about 11 a. m. the steamer Emma Boyd arrived, and reported as dispatch-boat for the gun-boat fleet.

Two gun-boats having been ordered to approach Yazoo City for the purpose of reconnoitering, found the enemy at that point in force; discovered also five guns in position and one other in course

of erection. The guns in position opened fire, two of the shots taking effect on one of the gun-boats. After dropping back and making more careful observations, they returned to their anchorage at Goosey's Mill.

Taking as a basis the above expressed observations of the gun-boats and information gathered from other sources, I was satisfied that a much larger force was in position there than was anticipated, and fearing they might plant a battery in my rear at Liverpool (the best point on the river for the erection of a battery), I ordered a return of the fleet to our present position, which we reached at an early hour this morning, not, however, without being fired on with musketry at Liverpool, without in any manner damaging us.

I would further respectfully state that the Emma Boyd was ordered by the naval officer to report to Vicksburg, Miss., with dispatches, and having a messenger on board destined for General Sherman, I took the liberty of making to him a full report of the operations and prospects of the expedition.

I have ordered that at daylight to-morrow morning (7th instant) two gun-boats shall proceed up the river as far as they can possibly reach, and in the mean time I propose sending a force of infantry, with such cavalry as I have, to engage the enemy at Liverpool, it being represented that the force there consists of the Sixth Texas Rangers and half of some other Texas regiment.

Respectfully,

JAS. H. COATES,
*Colonel, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, and*
*Commanding Land Forces, Yazoo River Expedition.*

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

The steamer Hastings leaves here to-morrow morning on business connected with the Treasury Department, and on her I send my wounded to Vicksburg.

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HDQRS. U. S. FORCES, ON STEAMER DES MOINES,
*One Mile below Yazoo City, February* 8, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to respectfully forward report of proceedings of Yazoo River expedition from last report to present date:

When last reporting I occupied the position at Goosey's Mill until the morning of the 7th instant. We dropped down the river to a short distance below Satartia. As the enemy were observed on the bluffs near the town, I disembarked my whole force and deployed the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, as skirmishers. The Eleventh Illinois Infantry formed in division as reserve, and gradually engaged the enemy, he rallying and moving by the left flank and toward their main body near Liverpool. At 5.30 o'clock I signaled my force to fall back to the transports, and after securing myself against surprise and stationing a strong picket remained for the night.

The following morning (February 8), at the suggestion of Captain Owen, commanding gun-boat fleet, I awaited the appearance of the gun-boat Louisville, which was hourly expected, and not making

her appearance for sometime of my hour fixed for starting, about noon I left Satartia and proceeded up the river, and was fully prepared and expected to meet with an engagement at Liverpool, but was surprised not to find any of the enemy at that point. Arriving at Goosey's Mill, 4 miles below Yazoo City, I signaled the boats to proceed up the river, preceded by two of the gun-boats, the two gun-boats passing the city and the transports landing within a mile of the city.

In the mean time, when at Goosey's Mill, I dispatched a small but effective force of the First Mississippi Cavalry, African descent, Major Cook commanding, and ordered them to proceed up the west bank of the river until opposite the city. Arriving at a point opposite the city, he encountered a small force of the enemy, and after a slight skirmish succeeded in capturing 2 men and 4 horses.

The enemy have moved south on the Bolton road and toward the Vicksburg and Jackson road.

Respectfully,

JAS. H. COATES,
*Commanding Yazoo River Expedition.*

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Yazoo City, Miss., March* 2, 1864.

GENERAL: I had the honor of communicating with you 28th ultimo, since which time I have been in the occupation of this city; not, however, without some little difficulty, as I am almost constantly engaged in skirmishing with the enemy. He comes up and drives my pickets in. I then run him off completely. This occurs two or three times per day. It keeps us watchful, but I am under no apprehension at all, for I can hold this place, without a doubt, against five times my numbers. The defenses are strong, and the approaches to them difficult. I was pleased to-day at receiving a communication from Colonel Crandal, dated at Satartia, and saying he was moving for Liverpool. This is just what is wanted if we are to hold this point. I have information that a portion of the force (rebel) here has gone to Liverpool, as I supposed they would.

The force opposing me is Ross' brigade of about 1,400 men, and are encamped at 2 miles beyond Benton, 12 miles from here. They will be re-enforced, I am reliably informed, by Jackson's command, some 5,000 men, but whether for an attack upon me or not I am not prepared to say. I have this intelligence from an employé of mine, who has been with them for two days and returned to-day. Since hearing from Colonel Crandal I have concluded to send the fleet forward all except the Sir William Wallace, which I desire to keep here for foraging and other purposes for the benefit of the Government.

The cotton I wrote you as being claimed by Forsyth I have given permission to ship to you and have you decide the legality of the purchase.

I have my tents pitched, camps established, and everything looks cheering, with enough fighting to create a healthy circulation of the blood.

Colonel Osband goes forward for his camp equipage, arms, &c., and will return in a few days. He has been eminently successful in recruiting, having his regiment nearly full and a mule or a horse for every recruit.

Accompanying please find manifest of cargoes of boats and a statement of that which is on the gun-boats, but the latter of which I am not personally accountable for, as they claim to be a separate institution, and though it was difficult to convince me of the fact, yet, as advised by General Sherman, I did not dispute the point of rank.

Respectfully,

JAS. H. COATES,
*Colonel Eleventh Illinois Infantry, Comdg. Expedition.*

Brigadier-General MCARTHUR,
*Commanding Post and Defenses, Vicksburg, Miss.*

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Yazoo City, Miss., March* 2, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the nonor to transmit herewith a report of all the cotton taken on expedition up Yazoo River. There may perhaps be a few more bales on transports than is reported; if so, it is Government cotton and taken from abandoned places. The amount reported includes lot of 190 bales shipped on steamer Emma Boyd, and been reported. I also send report of cotton bought by private parties as per permit from Treasury Department, and shipped on steamers Hastings and Mattie Cook. The following is a statement of amounts on Government boats: Steamer Sioux City, 400; steamer J. H. Lacey, 192; steamer Des Moines, 228; steamer Minnehaha, 443; steamer Emma Boyd, 190; steamer Sir William Wallace, 68; bales on transports, 1,521; amount on gun-boat fleet and in possession of Capt. E. K. Owen, 207; total amount, 1,728.

By order of Col. J. H. Coates, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, commanding post:

J. W. BREWSTER,
*Lieutenant Eleventh Illinois Infantry and A. A. Q. M.*

Brigadier-General MCARTHUR,
*Commanding Post of Vicksburg.*

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HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March* 11, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to present you the following report of Yazoo River expedition, of which I had the honor of commanding:

Pursuant to orders from Seventeenth Army Corps headquarters, and special instructions from Major-General Sherman, I embarked my command on the 31st of January last, consisting of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry, Maj. George C. McKee commanding (numbering 21 commissioned officers and 539 enlisted men), and Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, Lieut. Col. F. E. Peebles commanding (numbering 17 commissioned officers and 370 enlisted men), on

board the transports assigned for the purpose, and disposing of them to the best advantage, and convoyed by five gun-boats, under command of Captain Owen, moved up the river, arriving the same night at the mouth of the Yazoo River, where we remained during the night, taking on sufficient fuel to last two weeks.

On the morning of the 1st of February, I moved up the Yazoo River, arriving at Haynes' Bluff the same evening, taking on a small detachment of the First Mississippi Cavalry, African descent, under command of Major Cook.

On the following morning I moved up the river without interruption until within a mile of Satartia, where the enemy were reported to be, when I disembarked Major McKee with the left wing of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry, and Major Cook with his small detachment of cavalry, with orders to move through the town and toward the bluffs. But few of the enemy's pickets were seen, who fled at our approach. I embarked my men again at Satartia, and on the following morning (February 3) moved up the river to within 2 miles of Liverpool Heights, when the enemy opened on my advance with two pieces of artillery. I immediately moved my transports down out of range and disembarked the troops and made preparations to engage him, having ascertained the force to be Brigadier-General Ross' Texan brigade and numbering about 1,400 men.

I ordered Major McKee with the left wing of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry to move upon the extreme left with skirmishers advanced, the right wing of the Eleventh in the center moving in the same manner, and the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, on the right and right center, to move forward with the Eleventh. We were soon warmly engaged, the enemy falling back to a hastily constructed breast-work of logs, &c., where they made a desperate stand. At this juncture Major McKee ordered a charge with the right wing only of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry (the left wing being engaged with the enemy's skirmishers), but the enemy being in far superior numbers and having advantage of position, he was obliged to fall back to his former position under cover of a hill; not, however, without punishing the enemy severely, as could be seen by the removal of their wounded. The Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, in the mean time had moved to the right and had engaged the enemy on the flank, but were compelled by superior numbers to fall back to their original position, being still at close range. Heavy skirmishing now began between my force and the enemy, which continued until nearly sunset, when I gave the signal, and the entire command moved back to their respective boats in good order, removing our wounded with them.

From observations I had made I was led to believe that the enemy expected me to renew the attack the following morning, and was more fully and better prepared to meet me, and knowing their superiority of numbers and large advantage of position, and with two pieces of artillery, and as they were out of range of the gun-boats, I concluded it to be a better policy to move up the river, in order to keep them near me, as was designed by Major-General Sherman.

On the morning of the 4th, I again moved up the river, and, when nearly opposite the point where we had the engagement the day before, the enemy opened a brisk fire of musketry on the transports, permitting the advance gun-boats to pass unmolested. My men immediately formed temporary breast-works of boxes of hard bread, knapsacks, &c., and returned the fire with good effect. Five of my

men were wounded in this affair, the names, &c., of which please find inclosed.

From this point I proceeded up the river without interruption to within 6 miles of Yazoo City, where I remained during the following day, when I suggested to Captain Owen, commanding gun-boat squadron, to move two of his boats to Yazoo City to reconnoiter, which was accordingly done. They returned in a few hours, reporting the enemy in heavy force in that place, and were fired upon with artillery, two shots taking effect in one of the boats; also reporting five guns in position and one in course of erection. I have since learned that but two pieces of artillery were there, and but a small force of infantry.

Fearing a night attack, I moved down the river again nearly to Liverpool, where I remained until the following morning, when I learned from good authority that the main body of the enemy had left for Benton. I then moved a short distance up the river, when I observed men moving on the bluffs in the vicinity. I immediately disembarked a sufficient force, moving forward a line of skirmishers (with reserves at a proper distance), until we had full possession of the heights, exchanging but few shots, the enemy retreating on their horses back toward the interior. Fearing the small force I had disembarked would move too far from the boats, I ordered the proper signal to be given to return to the transports.

The following morning I moved up the river without interruption, and on the evening of the 9th February took possession of Yazoo City.

I had disembarked my small force of cavalry on the west side of the river with orders to move up to a point immediately opposite the city. They succeeded in capturing a small body of pickets, which had been left by the enemy, and which were duly forwarded to General McArthur by the next boat.

The following day (February 10), Col. E. D. Osband arrived from Haynes' Bluff with the balance of his regiment of cavalry, making a very effective force of about 250 men.

At daylight of the morning of the 11th February, I moved up the river, arriving without interruption from the enemy until on the 13th February, when near the head of Honey Island, about 60 Confederate soldiers were observed ahead and on the right bank of the river. I immediately ordered Colonel Osband to disembark with his command and engage them, moving my transports at the same time at supporting distance and my men ready to disembark immediately. The enemy fled back from the river, closely followed by Colonel Osband, who skirmished with them as long as he considered it prudent to do so, when he returned to the boats, having had 3 men wounded and losing a few horses killed, but had used the enemy severely and succeeded in capturing 3 prisoners. I moved from this point and arrived at Greenwood, Miss., at 9 p. m. on the 14th February, having moved with great caution as far as Fort Pemberton, but found it evacuated.

On the morning of the 16th February, I ordered Colonel Osband with his regiment of cavalry to proceed to Grenada, unless he found the enemy in too strong force. He returned the following day and reported having been within 5 miles of Grenada, and had learned that it was occupied by General Forrest with his command, but who was reported as moving out from that place.

I remained at Greenwood until the morning of February 19 (secur-

ing as much cotton, &c., as possible during the time), when I received orders from Brig. Gen. John McArthur, commanding at Vicksburg, to return to Yazoo City and hold that position until further orders (please find a copy of order inclosed). I immediately moved down the river, taking cotton, corn, &c., when found on plantations of disloyal parties, making my descent necessarily slow (report of cotton, stock, &c., please find inclosed*). I arrived, however, without interruption further than the tearing off the upper works of the transports by overhanging trees to within 6 miles of Yazoo City, Sunday, February 28, where I disembarked my whole force of cavalry, with instructions to move in rear of Yazoo City and take possession of all the roads leading therefrom. I then moved down leisurely with the gun-boats and transports (giving the cavalry ample time to secure all the outlets from the city), and commenced disembarking my infantry. Before, however, I had my force moved from the boats, I received information that the enemy had attacked my cavalry picket force. I immediately ordered Major Cook, First Mississippi Cavalry, African descent, with a detachment of his command to move out on the Benton road and reconnoiter. I then disembarked my infantry and formed in line, moving the Eleventh Regiment double-quick to the works commanding the Benton road and the Eighth Louisiana, African descent, to the ridge road on the right and commanding the bluff, and stationed two companies of cavalry on the extreme left.

About 3 p. m. Major Cook returned, followed closely by a much superior force of the enemy until within range of my line of skirmishers, who drove them back and skirmished with them nearly 3 miles.

Major Cook reported having run in General Ross' entire command about 6 miles out from the city, and who were evidently endeavoring to gain possession of the works on the heights before our arrival.

The loss in this affair to the cavalry was rather heavy, considering the numbers engaged.

I ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Peebles and Major McKee to hold the positions they then occupied, the men of their command to lie on their arms and ready for any emergency. The enemy, however, made no attack in force, but annoyed our picket line continually.

About noon on the 29th of February, my camp and garrison equipage arrived, and I ordered the commandants of each regiment to select a suitable camp-ground as near their positions as possible, which was accordingly done, and on the 1st instant we were in very comfortable quarters.

The enemy would every day make a dash on my advance picket-posts and vedettes, but would retire upon any demonstration being made by the reserves, and, being well mounted, could not be overtaken.

Upon the night of the 4th instant, I ascertained that General Ross had been re-enforced by the command of Brigadier-General Richardson (reported to have 800 Tennessee troops). I gave orders to have my picket reserves strengthened by two companies of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry and two companies of the Eighth Louisiana, African descent.

Upon the morning of Saturday, 5th instant, a heavy attack was

*See his report of March 2, 1864, p. 320.

made on my center picket (Benton road), but they stood their ground manfully, and not until the enemy had opened a heavy artillery fire upon the picket and reserves did they fall back to the main body of the regiment.

The engagement had now become extended throughout my entire line. I had instructed Lieutenant-Colonel Peebles and Major McKee to hold their positions at all hazards, as their redoubts commanded the entire city, and as long as they were held we had the town in our possession.

About 10 o'clock a. m. I discovered a movement on the part of the enemy to flank me on the left, where I had posted a small detachment of the First Mississippi Cavalry. I at once ordered four companies of the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, stationed over a mile distant, to their support. They came gallantly forward double-quick, but before they arrived within supporting distance General Richardson's entire command had entered the city proper, two regiments being between my headquarters and Fort McKee.

At this time Major McKee had sent out a portion of Company K, Eleventh Regiment, to open communication to my headquarters, but finding the enemy in too strong force they endeavored to move back to the works, and in doing so the enemy succeeded in capturing 10 of them prisoners. Three of them, however, escaped into the city, informing me that my only piece of artillery (a small howitzer borrowed from the gun-boat Exchange, and which was posted in the redoubt occupied by Major McKee) had become disabled. I immediately sent for another of the same kind, but before I could get it in the redoubt the enemy had gained full possession of the street, and I posted it upon the corners of the principal streets of the city and behind a hastily-constructed breast-work of cotton, and I regret to say at the first fire of the enemy the officer in charge of the gun (Ensign Holmes, U. S. Navy) and his men shamefully deserted it and fled to the boat, but was met by Captain McElroy, commanding gun-boat, who refused them permission to come on board the boat. I succeeded, however, in moving the gun from its position, and procured another squad to man it, and who performed their duty faithfully and with great bravery.

The enemy at this time began to crowd my small force, and I ordered two more companies from the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, who responded with alacrity.

I now distributed my small force, consisting of A Company, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, and six companies of the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, through the streets, in doorways, houses, &c., and commenced a vigorous and telling fire upon the enemy, the howitzer discharging shell with telling effect into the houses the enemy had taken possession of. During this time the enemy were pouring a heavy discharge of shot and shell from six pieces of artillery, doing little damage, however, except to the buildings.

In the mean time Major McKee in his redoubt, with nine companies of the Eleventh, and Major Cook with his small detachment of 80 men in the rifle-pits (the rifle-pits having been constructed the day before), and Lieutenant-Colonel Peebles, with his four companies on the right, were doing nobly.

Major McKee was for four hours surrounded on three sides by the enemy with six regiments, and three times was he ordered to surrender (orders to surrender and reply of major please find inclosed). During the whole time the enemy had gained his position so as to strike

the fort. He had kept up a continuous fire of artillery and small-arms, in which our loss was very severe.

About 2 p. m. my force made a desperate charge through the streets, completely routing the enemy and pursuing them entirely through the town and beyond the breast-works in the left, my single piece of artillery doing fine execution.

The force around and engaged with Major McKee, perceiving their right falling back in disorder, fell into confusion and began to retreat in great disorder, and the major, with only 6 men, sallied from the fort and with loud cheers actually turned the flank of one entire regiment.

The enemy now fell back out of range, and his losses must have been very severe, they admitting the loss of over 40 killed, and their ambulances could be seen constantly employed.

My casualties of this and previous engagements during the expedition please find inclosed.*

Before the engagement of the 5th instant, I had received a communication from General Ross, of which please find copies with answer inclosed; also copy of communication from General Richardson, received immediately after the engagement, and answer inclosed.

I cannot close this report without expressing my heartfelt thanks and unbounded admiration for the very able support afforded me by the brave Maj. George C. McKee and the officers and men of his command; to Maj. J. B. Cook, First Mississippi Cavalry, African descent, and the officers and men of his command; to Lieut. Col. F. E. Peebles, Eighth Louisiana Infantry, African descent, and officers and men composing his command, and would respectfully call your attention to the bravery, coolness, and ability of these officers. To Capt. N. C. Kenyon, Company K; Adjt. H. H. Deane, Lieut. J. W. Brewster, acting regimental quartermaster; Lieut. Charles A. Peironnet, Company E, all of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry, I am under particular obligations. They formed my staff, and acted with all the energy, bravery, coolness, and determined perseverance in the discharge of their arduous duties as they ever have been noted for. To Lieut. Orton Ingersoll, Company A, Eleventh Regiment, and the brave men of his command (who were detailed for provost guard, and for a long time during the engagement were the only company in the streets of the city), I desire to bespeak your most considerate attention. During the advance of the enemy into the city, this company held greatly superior numbers in check and disputed every inch of ground.

I neglected to report in the proper place, that at about 11 a. m. on the 5th instant, when I found my position somewhat closely pressed, I dispatched the transport Sir William Wallace to Liverpool (24 miles) to bring the command (or as much as could be spared) of Colonel Crandal, Tenth Louisiana, African descent, stationed at that point, but for some cause they did not arrive at Yazoo City until after the fight was over.

Upon Sunday evening, 6th instant, the transports South Western, Mars, and Emerald arrived, bringing orders from headquarters Seventeenth Army Corps to embark all the force, stores, &c., and again disembarking the force at Liverpool. Marching from thence, leaving the troops belonging at Haynes' Bluff at that point, and

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 31 killed, 121 wounded, and 31 missing.

bringing those belonging to Vicksburg to that station, all of which, I have the honor to report, was accomplished without opposition from the enemy.

I have the honor herewith to inclose a rough sketch* of Yazoo City and its surroundings, with the position of troops, &c.

I have the honor, colonel, to remain, respectfully,

JAS. H. COATES,
*Col. 11th Illinois Inf. Vols., Comdg. Yazoo River Expedition.*

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Huntsville, April 2, 1864.*

Respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division, and special attention called to the gallantry and bravery of Colonel Coates, Major McKee, and the officers and soldiers under them.

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
*Nashville, Tenn., April 16, 1864.*

Recorded and respectfully forwarded for the information of the War Department.

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HDQRS. TEXAN BRIGADE, JACKSON'S CAVALRY DIVISION,
*March 4, 1864.*

Colonel COATES,
*Comdg. U. S. Forces, Yazoo City:*

SIR: Some few weeks ago 2 men belonging to the Sixth Regiment Texas Cavalry were captured by one Colonel Wood, of the U. S. Army, near Mechanicsburg, Miss., and executed, without trial and in cold blood. From threats made by officers and men of your command during their recent raids through this country, I am led to infer that yourself and command indorse the cold-blooded and inhuman proceedings of Colonel Wood.

My object in addressing you now is to know whether or not such is the case. What kind of treatment shall members of this brigade expect, should the fortunes of war make them prisoners, in your hands? Will they receive the treatment due prisoners of war, or be murdered as were the 2 unfortunate men above referred to?

Regard for the feelings of humanity and a strong desire to see the struggle in which we are engaged conducted as becometh a civilized people are the motives which have prompted the above inquiries. Up to the time of the death of the 2 men who were murdered by Colonel Wood, prisoners captured by this command were invariably treated kindly and with the considerations due them as prisoners of war; indeed, it is the boast of the Texans, that while they have always damaged the enemies of their country to the utmost of their

*See p. 331.

ability on the battle-field and in open, fair fight, they had never yet injured nor in any way maltreated prisoners.

If, however, the sad fate that befell the 2 men captured at Mechanicsburg await all who may hereafter be taken, we are prepared to accept the terms, and will know what course henceforth to pursue.

I trust your answer may be satisfactory to my command, and that there may be no necessity for any change in the treatment heretofore given to prisoners.

I am, colonel, respectfully, &c.,

L. S. ROSS,
*Brigadier-General C. S. Army.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Yazoo City, Miss., March* 4, 1864.

Brig. Gen. L. S. Ross,
*Commanding Texas Brigade, Jackson's Cavalry Division:*

SIR: Your communication of date this a. m., per flag of truce, just received and contents noted. I would respectfully reply that your information relative to outrages said to have been committed by Colonel Wood, U. S. Volunteers, is the first intimation that I have received of such transaction, and beg further to assure you that this mode of warfare and treatment of prisoners is as sincerely deprecated by me as by yourself.

I desire, however, to call your attention (while speaking on this subject) to a fact which in all probability you have not yet been advised, viz, that in a skirmish with a portion of your command on the 28th ultimo 19 of my command (colored) were missing; since then 6 of the number have been found, presenting every appearance of having been brutally used, and compelling me to arrive at the conclusion that they had been murdered after having been taken prisoners.

I beg leave to assure you that while I am desirous of performing all that is in my line of duty I will not deviate from those principles dictated by humanity, and it will only be in extreme cases of premeditated provocation that I will tolerate it in any portion of my command.

I am, general, respectfully, &c.,

JAS. H. COATES,
*Colonel, Commanding U. S. Forces, Yazoo City.*

[Inclosure No. 3.]

*Correspondence between Brig. Gen. Lawrence S. Ross, commanding Texan Brigade, and Maj. George C. McKee, commanding redoubt at Yazoo City, Miss., March* 5, 1864.

FIRST DEMAND.

The first demand was for the unconditional surrender of my intrenchments and the forces under my command.

The officer who bore the flag of truce (Lieutenant Rogers, of General Ross' staff) stated that he was also instructed to say to the commander of the redoubt, "That in case of having to storm the works, General Ross said he would be unable to restrain his men." I answered, "That means General Ross will murder the prisoners if

he is successful." Lieutenant Rogers said, "No, not exactly that; but you know how it will be." I then refused to receive the communication, and told Lieutenant Rogers to say to General Ross to put all of his communications into writing, for if he attacked me with the present understanding and was repulsed, I would kill every man that fell into my hands.

This is a copy and answer to the first communication.

SECOND DEMAND.

HEADQUARTERS ATTACKING FORCES,
*Yazoo City, March 5*, 1864.

*Major Commanding Redoubt, Benton Road:*

MAJOR: An unconditional surrender of the forces holding the redoubt, on Benton road, of Yazoo City, is demanded.

You are entirely surrounded and cannot possibly effect a retreat.

I have no terms to offer, other than that you shall receive the treatment due prisoners of war.

A suspension of the firing on your position for ten minutes will be allowed in order that your answer may be received.

Respectfully, &c.,

L. S. ROSS,
*Brigadier-General.*

(Answer.)

YAZOO CITY,
*March 5*, 1864.

Brigadier-General ROSS:

GENERAL: Your demand for the surrender of my forces is received. In answer, I can only say that I have no idea of surrendering. I am sorry that your threat in regard to the treatment of prisoners was not reduced to writing, as it certainly should have been.

Respectfully,

GEO. C. McKEE,
*Major Eleventh Illinois Infantry, Commanding Redoubt.*

THIRD DEMAND.

HEADQUARTERS FORCES ATTACKING YAZOO CITY,
*March 5*, 1864.

Major McKEE:

Your reply just received. I regret for the sake of humanity that you do not find it consistent with your feelings of duty to your Government to surrender the redoubt, which I can certainly storm and take.

As to the treatment of your men and yourself, I will try and have them protected if they surrender during the charge; but you may expect much bloodshed. If you have no reply to make, we will resume operations when the white flag is down from both your line and mine.

Respectfully,

L. S. ROSS,
*Brigadier-General.*

(Answer.)

To this demand no written reply was made. The verbal statement sent to General Ross by Colonel Jones, Third [Ninth] Texas (bearer of flag), "That General Ross was a greater philanthropist than myself, and for him to take down his white flag as soon as he reached his lines."

GEO. C. McKEE,
*Major Eleventh Illinois Infantry.*

[Inclosure No. 4.]

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY BRIGADE,
*Near Yazoo City, March* 6, 1864.

Colonel COATES,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Yazoo City, Miss.:*

COLONEL: Maj. James G. Thurmand and Lieutenant Rainey, and probably other officers and men of my command, were killed yesterday in Yazoo City, and not brought off the field. I send ambulances for the purpose of bringing to these headquarters their remains, which I request you to permit.

When I captured your wounded yesterday, in all about 30 in one house, I did not allow them to be molested, although I could have brought some away with me. I hope you will treat my wounded that may have fallen into your hands with like humanity.

I have about 20 of your men as prisoners I would like to exchange for any of my men you may have, and suggest that a commission from each side could meet between our picket-lines for the purpose. If the proposition meets your approbation, you will indicate the time and place in reply to my officer bearing flag of truce.

I ask that one of my surgeons be allowed to visit my wounded men and officers in your possession to-day and dress their wounds if necessary. Capt. W. E. Reneau, assistant inspector-general of my staff, with escort of men and ambulance train, will bear this communication under flag of truce.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

R. V. RICHARDSON,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Brigade.*

[Inclosure No. 5.]

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Yazoo City, Miss., March* 6, 1864.

Brig. Gen. R. V. RICHARDSON,
*Commanding Cavalry Division, near Yazoo City:*

GENERAL: Your communication this a. m., per flag of truce, just received, and I hasten to reply.

I would respectfully state that your dead have been decently interred and your wounded properly and tenderly cared for, and as there can be no necessity for your surgeon and ambulance corps I decline receiving them.

As to the proposition of exchange, if I mistake not a cartel has been agreed upon in which certain parties and places have been named for such exchange; and as [neither] General Richardson, C. S. Army, nor Colonel Coates, U. S. Volunteers, have been named as the parties, nor Yazoo City the point for such exchange, I must respectfully decline your proposition.

I am, general, respectfully,

JAS. H. COATES,
*Colonel, Commanding U. S. Forces, Yazoo City, Miss.*

[Inclosure No. 6.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST AND DEFENSES,
*Vicksburg, Miss., February* 18, 1864.

Colonel COATES,
*Commanding Yazoo Expedition:*

COLONEL: Your report is received and your course approved.

On your return to Yazoo City you will remain there with your force until further orders, sending a boat down for your camp and garrison equipage and supplies, forwarding such property as you may have collected to this place.

As trade is not yet opened to Yazoo City, you will arrest all parties who have not special permission from the Treasury agent at this point, approved by me; also all steam-boats not cleared from here you will take possession of and return them to this post. You will arrest all detectives who are not regularly authorized from these headquarters or the headquarters Seventeenth Army Corps. A great deal of unauthorized seizure and plundering is committed by men under the pretense of being Government detectives, the blame of which will be attached to your command. The regularly authorized Treasury agents will receive such assistance as you can consistently give them in collecting abandoned property and forwarding the same from time to time, together with such corn and forage as you can collect in obedience to your instructions from Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman.

Yours, respectfully,

J. McARTHUR,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 7.]

HEADQUARTERS POST,
*Vicksburg, February* 28, 1864.

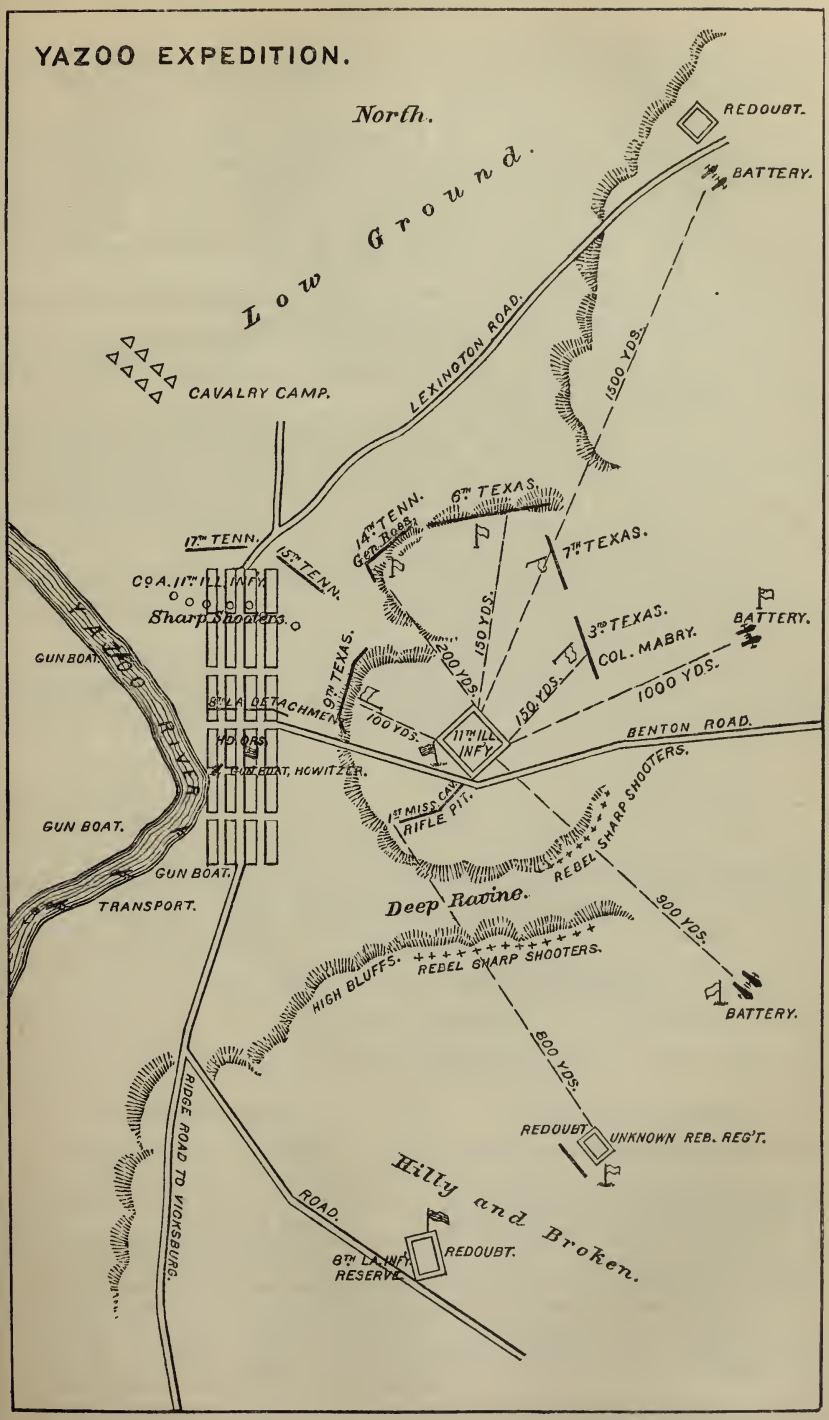
Colonel COATES,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Yazoo City:*

COLONEL: Your communication was received. I have ordered your camp and garrison equipage up. Since then I have seen General Sherman. It is not his intention to keep you where you are for any length of time. You will, therefore, send your steamers, with what cotton and other property you may have collected, to this place at once, when I will return the transports to bring your command down. Communicate with General Hurlbut, who is, I believe, at Woodruff's Mills, on the Big Black River.

In regard to cotton, let all parties (bona fide owners) who have remained at home on their plantations dispose of the same to any one authorized to purchase, permitting the Government steamers, on their return trip, to bring it down as freight. Let Colonel Osband send across to the army and he can get men enough to fill his regiment up. Let me hear from you by return of boat. General Sherman goes down the river to-night.

Yours, truly,

J. McARTHUR,
*Brigadier-General.*


YAZOO EXPEDITION.
North.
Low Ground.
REDOUBT.
BATTERY.
LEXINGTON ROAD.
1500 YDS.
CAVALRY CAMP.
14TH TENN.
6TH TEXAS.
17TH TENN.
15TH TENN.
7TH TEXAS.
C° A. 11TH ILL. INF'Y.
Sharp Shooters.
190 YDS.
3RD TEXAS.
COL. MABRY.
BATTERY.
GUN BOAT.
9TH TEXAS.
200 YDS.
150 YDS.
1000 YDS.
8TH LA DETACHMENT
100 YDS.
11TH ILL. INF'Y.
BENTON ROAD.
4 GUN BOAT, HOWITZER.
1ST MISS. CAV.
RIFLE PIT.
REBEL SHARP SHOOTERS.
GUN BOAT.
GUN BOAT.
TRANSPORT.
Deep Ravine.
900 YDS.
HIGH BLUFFS.
REBEL SHARP SHOOTERS.
BATTERY.
800 YDS.
REDOUBT.
UNKNOWN REB. REG'T.
RIDGE ROAD TO VICKSBURG.
Hilly and Broken.
ROAD.
8TH LA INF'Y RESERVE
REDOUBT.

No. 60.

*Itinerary of the First Brigade, First Division, U. S. Colored Troops, Brig. Gen. Isaac F. Shepard, commanding, February 10–29.*

February 10, detachments of Companies A, B, C, D, E, and F, First Mississippi Cavalry, amounting to about 260 men, under command of Col. E. D. Osband, marched to Yazoo City, Miss., and joined Yazoo expedition, commanded by Col. James H. Coates, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, and moved up with the expedition to Greenwood, Miss.

February 14, met Colonel Forrest's rebel cavalry, and routed them after an engagement of half an hour's duration.

February 16, marched to a point within 8 miles of Grenada, and finding General Forrest's division (rebels) returned, moved down the river with the expedition.

February 28, entered Yazoo City at 2 p. m., finding no enemy. Major Cook and 50 men of Companies C and D were sent toward Benton, 6 miles out; run into Ross' Texas cavalry brigade and was compelled to retreat, enemy closely following. Captain Cook, Company E, severely wounded, 8 men killed, 10 missing, and 3 wounded. Enemy's loss known to have been severe.

On February 11, the brigade moved from Haynes' Bluff to Snyder's Bluff, a distance of about 2½ miles, the latter being a stronger and more easily defended position.

February 29, Col. F. M. Crandal, in command of about 700 men of his own regiment (Tenth Louisiana) and the Third Mississippi, started on an expedition to Liverpool, on Yazoo River, to keep open communication between Yazoo City and Vicksburg.

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No. 61.

*Organization of the Army commanded by Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk, C. S. Army, February 20, 1864.*

ESCORT.

Louisiana Company, Lieut. P. M. Kenner.

LORING'S DIVISION.*

Maj. Gen. WILLIAM W. LORING.

*Featherston's Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. WINFIELD S. FEATHERSTON.

3d Mississippi, Col. T. A. Mellon.
22d Mississippi, Lieut. Col. H. J. Reid.
31st Mississippi, Lieut. Col. M. D. L. Stephens.
33d Mississippi, Lieut. Col. J. L. Drake.
1st Mississippi Sharpshooters, Maj. Jas. M. Stigler.
Alabama Battery, Capt. Stephen Charpentier.

*Adams' Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. JOHN ADAMS.

1st Confederate Battalion, Lieut. Col. George H. Forney.
6th Mississippi, Col. Robert Lowry.
14th Mississippi, Lieut. Col. W. L. Doss.
15th Mississippi, Col. M. Farrell.
20th Mississippi, Col. William N. Brown.
26th Mississippi, Col. Arthur E. Reynolds.
Lookout (Tenn.) Artillery, Capt. Robert L. Barry.

*The return reports four batteries with this division; the fourth was probably Cowan's Mississippi Battery.

*Buford's Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. ABRAHAM BUFORD.

27th Alabama, Col. James Jackson.
35th Alabama, Col. Samuel S. Ives.
54th Alabama, Col. Alpheus Baker.
55th Alabama, Col. John Snodgrass.
9th Arkansas, Col. Isaac L. Dunlop.
3d Kentucky, Col. A. P. Thompson.
7th Kentucky, Col. Ed. Crossland.
8th Kentucky, Lieut. Col. A. R. Shacklett.
12th Louisiana, Col. Thomas M. Scott.
Pointe Coupee (Louisiana) Artillery, Capt. Alcide Bouanchaud.

FRENCH'S DIVISION.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL G. FRENCH.

*Ector's Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. MATTHEW D. ECTOR.

29th North Carolina, Capt. W. W. Rollins.
9th Texas, Col. William H. Young.
10th Texas Cavalry,† Col. C. R. Earp.
14th Texas Cavalry,† Col. John L. Camp.
32d Texas Cavalry,† Capt. Nathan Anderson.

*Cockrell's Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. FRANCIS M. COCKRELL.

1st and 4th Missouri, Col. A. C. Riley.
2d and 6th Missouri, Col. P. C. Flournoy.
3d and 5th Missouri, Col. James McCown.
1st and 3d Missouri Cavalry,† Col. Elijah Gates.

CAVALRY CORPS.‡

Maj. Gen. STEPHEN D. LEE.

*Escort.*

Georgia Company, Capt. T. M. Nelson.

JACKSON'S DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM H. JACKSON.

*First Brigade.*

Col. PETER B. STARKE.

1st Mississippi, Col. R. A. Pinson.
28th Mississippi, Col. Peter B. Starke.
Ballentine's Mississippi Regiment, Col. John G. Ballentine.
Escort, Louisiana Company, Capt. Junius Y. Webb.
Columbus (Georgia) Light Artillery, Capt. Edward Croft.

*Second Brigade.*

Col. LAWRENCE S. ROSS.

1st Texas Legion, Col. Edwin R. Hawkins.
3d Texas, Col. Hinchie P. Mabry.
6th Texas, Col. Jack Wharton.
9th Texas, Col. Dud. W. Jones.
Escort, Texas Company, Lieut. Rush L. Elkin.
Missouri Battery, Capt. Houston King.

*Adams' Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. WIRT ADAMS.

11th Arkansas, Col. John Griffith.
14th Confederate, Capt. Josephus R. Quin.
9th Louisiana Battalion, Capt. E. A. Scott.
4th [2d] Mississippi, Maj. J. L. Harris.
4th Mississippi, Maj. Thomas R. Stockdale.
Adams' Mississippi Regiment, Col. Robert C. Wood, jr.
9th Tennessee Battalion, Maj. James H. Akin.
Mississippi Battery, Capt. Calvit Roberts.

*Ferguson's Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. SAMUEL W. FERGUSON.

2d Alabama, Col. R. G. Earle.
56th Alabama, Col. William Boyles.
12th Mississippi Battalion, Col. W. M. Inge.
2d Tennessee (Barteau's regiment), Lieut. Col. George H. Morton.
South Carolina Battery, Capt. John Waties.

* Batteries not accounted for on original return; they were probably Hoskins' (Mississippi) and Walsh's (Missouri) batteries.

† Dismounted.

‡ No report from General Forrest; the Sixth Alabama Cavalry transferred to North Alabama.

CHALMERS' DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JAMES R. CHALMERS.

*First Brigade.*

Col. W. F. SLEMONS.

2d Arkansas, Col. W. F. Slemons.
3d Mississippi (State), Col. John McGuirk.
5th Mississippi, Col. James Z. George.
7th Tennessee, Col. William L. Duckworth.
Mississippi Battery, Capt. J. M. McLendon.

*Second Brigade.*

Col. ROBERT MCCULLOCH.

1st Mississippi Partisan Rangers, Lieut. Col. L. B. Hovis.
18th Mississippi Battalion, Lieut. Col. Alexander H. Chalmers.
19th Mississippi Battalion, Lieut. Col. William L. Duff.
2d Missouri, Col. Robert McCulloch.
Buckner (Mississippi) Battery, Lieut. H. C. Holt.

MILITARY POSTS.*

Cahaba, Lieut. Col. H. C. Davis.
Columbus, Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles.
Demopolis, Lieut. Col. Nathaniel Wickliffe.
Selma, Col. Thomas H. Rosser.

## No. 62.

*Abstract from field return of the Army commanded by Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk, C. S. Army, February* 20, 1864.

| Command. | Present for duty. | | Effective total present. | Aggregate present. | Aggregate present and absent. | Pieces of field artillery. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | | | | | |
| General staff and escort | 5 | 44 | 44 | 60 | 96 | .. .. | Forney's command transferred to General Maury.† |
| Loring's division | 548 | 5,375 | 5,372 | 6,596 | 12,336 | 18 | |
| French's division | 248 | 2,442 | 2,417 | 3,094 | 5,287 | 8 | |
| Cavalry ‡ (Lee's) | 652 | 7,685 | 7,611 | 9,981 | 16,640 | ..... | Cheatham's division from Army of Tennessee not accounted for. |
| Ruggles' command | 11 | 74 | 73 | 102 | 137 | ..... | |
| Posts: | | | | | | | |
| Cahaba | 37 | 254 | 254 | 351 | 501 | ..... | |
| Demopolis | 11 | 138 | 138 | 224 | 324 | ..... | |
| Selma | 22 | 174 | 174 | 216 | 262 | ..... | |
| Total § | 1,534 | 16,186 | 16,083 | 20,624 | 35,583 | 26 | |

## No. 63.

*Reports of Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk, C. S. Army.*

MERIDIAN, *February* 6, 1864.
(Received Richmond, 8th.)

The movement in force of the enemy from the Mississippi at Vicksburg, which I dispatched you was contemplated, has been made. A column estimated at 20,000 entered Jackson on the evening of the 5th. Another column (numbers not known) has moved up Yazoo River—intended, probably, for Yazoo City. These columns were

* Composition of the garrisons not indicated on original returns.

† Not accounted for as such on return of Department of the Gulf for this date. Reference is probably to Baldwin's and Mckall's brigades.

‡ No report from General Forrest, and none of the pieces of artillery in Lee's command.

§ The aggregate present and absent includes 1,134 paroled prisoners absent.

opposed by cavalry. I am concentrating my force of infantry at Morton. Whether the enemy intends to move in force across Pearl River does not yet appear.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General COOPER.

—

HILLSBOROUGH, MISS., *February* 9, 1864.

I have kept the War Department informed in regard to the movements of the enemy on the western front of this department. He moved out in heavy force from Vicksburg toward Jackson; also in boats up the Yazoo River. Both columns were met and held in check by the cavalry until developed.

He entered Jackson at 6 p. m. Friday, 5th, and from the most reliable information with a force of from 35,000 to 40,000 infantry, sixty pieces of artillery, and cavalry not known.

He crossed Pearl River at 10 a. m. on 7th with his whole force and moved rapidly upon Morton, destroying all the bridges behind him. He reached Morton last night, and turned toward Mobile to-day. My infantry force in this part of the department consists of Major-General Loring's division, about 6,000, and French's, 1,250, with 1,700 exchanged prisoners imperfectly organized—say 9,000. The rest of the infantry compose the garrison of Mobile. A portion of this, on consultation with General Maury, was withdrawn and ordered to the front, in the hope of making a campaign before it should be needed at Mobile; but the enemy's force proving so much larger than was anticipated, and other indications pointing to a combined attack on Mobile, made it necessary to restore this garrison and avoid giving battle, which, under the circumstances, might have been hazarded. I have therefore ordered the force from Mobile back to that garrison and added other forces to it, so as to strengthen it up to the point deemed necessary by General Maury. These troops, I have no reason to doubt, will reach their destination in due time. I have just returned from an inspection of the defenses of Mobile, and although not completed are yet in fine condition and very efficient. The garrison has six months' supply of subsistence, and is very confident. I shall take immediate steps to increase its stores by the rivers. It is of the highest consequence that its requisitions for ammunition for heavy guns should be supplied at once. I have General Loring's force and the cavalry still in the field, and am not without a prospect of increasing both.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

His Excellency President DAVIS.

—

NEWTON, MISS., *February* 10, 1864.
(Via Mobile. Received Richmond, 11th.)

I dispatched the President yesterday as to the situation. Since then a dispatch from General Forrest announces two columns of cavalry—one to move on them at Grenada; the other on the corn region in the neighborhood of Columbus.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 17, 1864.

The enemy entered Meridian the 14th, day after my last dispatch. His forward movement was retarded by my cavalry, who assailed him in front and flank. His movement was so compact as to make it difficult to do more than annoy him. Since he has been in Meridian he has been breaking up the Mobile and Ohio and the Meridian and Demopolis Railroads. I am informed by General Lee he has moved also on Enterprise. What his intentions are has not yet been determined. He may still go to Mobile or return to Jackson. Ordered Lee and Forrest to harass him, and to intercept a column of cavalry coming down to join him from West Tennessee, reported 10,000 strong. Am holding my small force in hand at Demopolis to take advantage of events. All stores from the Mobile and Ohio Railroad of special value removed, and rolling-stock placed beyond his reach. Am increasing stores of garrison at Mobile.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

His Excellency PRESIDENT DAVIS,
*Richmond, Va.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 18, 1864.

By my orders General Forrest left a force to hold enemy in check near Memphis some days ago, and is now moving rapidly with his column to strike that of the enemy on its way to Columbus from West Tennessee. This column is one of cavalry, reported 10,000 strong, and is moving to join Sherman and secure food for his infantry at Meridian. The head of this column is reported near Pontotoc; General Forrest close by. General Lee moved forward under orders yesterday to co-operate with Forrest in an attack upon it. A command under General Ruggles and the Mississippi State troops will unite in the attack. To crush that force is important.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

Hon. J. A. SEDDON,
*Secretary of War, Richmond.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 18, 1864.

My telegrams to the President have kept him advised of the movements of the enemy. The last dispatch sent yesterday. General Lee, who is covering my front, reports 7 p. m. yesterday. Says enemy engaged tearing up Mobile and Ohio and Selma Railroads above Meridian to-day. As yet indicates movement in no certain direction from Meridian.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

Hon. J. A. SEDDON,
*Secretary of War.*

—

MERIDIAN, *February* 19, 1864.

Enemy reported to have torn up 10 miles of Mobile and Ohio Railroad above Meridian, and the same amount of Selma Railroad from same point, then returned to Meridian; also to have gone down to

De Soto, below Quitman, and burned bridge on Mobile and Ohio Railroad; also an amount of Government corn and cotton, then returned to Meridian. Measures taken to save stores and other Government property have been very successful. From Pearl River eastward enemy deprived of the use of all rolling-stock between Pearl River and Tombigbee. The columns of cavalry of enemy from West Tennessee, reported by General Forrest to-day 10,000, with thirty pieces of artillery, crossed the Tallahatchie at New Albany on 13th and 14th. Forrest will most probably meet them at West Point, Lee moving north to meet them at same point. The preparations necessary for re-enforcements are being made.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

Hon. J. A. SEDDON,
*Secretary of War, Richmond.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 20, 1864.

No movement of the enemy in any direction from Meridian up to the present; probably awaiting the arrival of his cavalry column coming down from West Tennessee. That column reported to-night as arrived at Aberdeen. Generals Lee's and Forrest's columns ordered to unite and attack it. They are both between it and Sherman, at Meridian, and in supporting distance. Head of my re-enforcing column reported at Montgomery.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 21, 1864.

Head of Hardee's column arriving to-day. Shall throw head of mine across the Tombigbee to-morrow, push the whole force forward as fast as it arrives, and move upon the enemy.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

President DAVIS,
*Richmond.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 21, 1864.

Nothing from General Lee or Forrest to-day. Have strong confidence in their success in preventing junction of enemy's columns, and believe they will succeed against his cavalry. Enemy reported to have moved from Meridian in direction of De Kalb—most probably to look up his cavalry, which is behind time. Refer to dispatch to President for my movements.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.*

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 22, 1864.

The success of my cavalry in preventing a junction of the enemy's two columns appears to have broken up his campaign.

The following dispatch just received:

LAUDERDALE, *February* 22, 1864—3 p. m.

General POLK:

The latest reliable information is that the enemy left the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in two columns—one from Meridian going to Decatur and the other from this place going to Herbert to meet at Union, and go thence to Carthage and to Canton.

R. O. PERRIN,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

At last advices General Forrest had the enemy's column of cavalry between the Sakatonchee and the Tombigbee, and was holding it there for the arrival of General Lee. The latter would join him with his column perhaps to-day. I confidently expect a satisfactory result. I move my infantry forward in the morning. Two of General Hardee's brigades have arrived.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.*

(Same to General J. E. Johnston, Dalton, Ga.)

—

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 22, 1864.

I have kept you advised by telegraph of the enemy's movements since he left Vicksburg. From several reliable sources I have heard it was the enemy's intention to move from Vicksburg, through Jackson and Meridian, upon Montgomery, Ala., breaking up the railroads as he went. It is reported as coming from General Sherman that the campaign was ordered by General Grant, and that he regarded it as a foolish one. It certainly has not been a successful one. The vigorous action of my cavalry under General Lee kept him so closed up that he could not spread out and forage. As an evidence of this, a drove of hogs of mine was on the way east and pursued a route within 6 miles on an average of his line of march without molestation and have arrived safely. He was deprived entirely of the rolling-stock of all the roads between the Pearl and Tombigbee Rivers, as well as of the use of all the valuable stores which had been accumulated at depots on those roads, and, finally, of the services of his cavalry column. This last deprivation was fatal to the further prosecution of his campaign, and as reported to the adjutant and inspector general by telegraphic dispatch to-day, he seems to have given it up and gone back toward the Mississippi.

I have reason to believe that the combinations now operating against his cavalry force will succeed in breaking and routing, if not even crushing it. If this should be the result, my cavalry will be ordered to fall upon the enemy's flanks and rear, and press and harass him as long as he is in the field. I shall pursue him with my infantry in the morning, taking such a course as will enable me to act most effectively.

I have already taken measures to have all the roads broken up by him rebuilt, and shall press that work vigorously. The amount of road destroyed by him may be in all about 50 miles, extending out on the four roads from Meridian as a center. While upon this subject I desire to say that it is of the highest importance that measures be taken to have the road from Selma to the Tombigbee finished and the bridge over that river built. I hope the government will take immediate steps to have this effected. For the want of it it has taken the greatest exertions to save the public property exposed by the recent movements of the enemy, and such risks should not be taken again. The movements consequent upon the presence of the enemy in this department have demonstrated also that which has been too apparent before, to wit, that the system of having subsistence and quartermaster's agents in this department who are working independently of the supervision and control of the department commander operates most injuriously to the public service. Any system which makes a commander in the field dependent for his supplies upon parties over whom he has no control cannot but work badly, and it may be fatally, to his command. All the benefits proposed to be accomplished by the existing arrangements can be much better secured by devolving the responsibility of collecting subsistence and quartermaster's stores as well as field transportation directly on the department commander. He is upon the spot, can supervise agents much more closely than the chief of a bureau at Richmond, and correct abuses as well as secure efficiency. Besides, nothing can be more inconvenient, to say nothing more of it, than to require the requisitions of a commander at this distance from the seat of government to send his requisitions for stores to Richmond to be approved before the goods can be drawn from the depots.

All the evils of the system could be cured by charging the department commander with the duty of having all these stores collected by his own staff. It is as easy for him to have provision returns showing the amount of all the subsistence in his department made to the War Department every ten days as it is for him to have a field return showing the number of his troops, and he is bound to respond to a requisition for the one as for the other by the department should they be needed in a distant field. Besides all this, having two or more sets of quartermasters in the department multiplies officials and their retainers to a pernicious extent and produces no small amount of confusion.

I repeat, all the evils of the existing system in regard to the collection of quartermaster's stores, field transportation, and subsistence could be cured by having the work done through the department commander, who should not be interfered with in the administration of his department by parties from without acting under a distant authority. I assure you that a large amount of the inefficiency exhibited in these departments arises from the improper distribution of responsibility and supervision, to say nothing of its annoyance, and I earnestly hope it may be changed.

I remain, respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

His Excellency President DAVIS.

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 23, 1864.

The following dispatches just received :*

LAUDERDALE STATION, 22D.

Scouts from Daleville report the enemy have all left the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. Column from Marion marched 3 miles west of Daleville. The column from Meridian is moving west to form junction with column from Marion at Union, which is 30 miles west of Daleville, thence by way of Carthage to Canton. It is thought a small force has been sent by way of De Kalb to burn government corn at that place.

R. O. PERRIN,
*Colonel, Commanding, &c.*

LINE CREEK, 9 MILES SOUTHWEST OF WEST POINT,
*February* 22, 1864—10 a. m.

Arrived here at daylight. Enemy are retiring rapidly. General Forrest is pursuing, and at last report is 16 miles above West Point. He does not know yet whether they are trying to join Sherman via Houston and Greensborough or not. Have halted my command till I hear further from him. It is in position to intercept raiders unless they are off for Memphis, which I think is the case. Their force was overrated, I think.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

From the above and other dispatches, all of the same tenor, preceding these, I think it now certain that the campaign of the enemy is broken up. He must go beyond Pearl River, and I shall pursue him with my cavalry and follow with infantry, re-establishing my former lines as early as practicable. Is it your wish that General Hardee's column be employed in operations farther west ?

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

His Excellency President DAVIS,
*Richmond, Va.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 23, 1864.

My head of column has moved upon a line pursued by the enemy to-day. General Hardee's troops are supplied with transportation as fast as they arrive. They come in slowly. The whole of the first division not yet in. I will press the whole force forward as rapidly as possible. You will have heard from my dispatch of this morning that the enemy's infantry are retreating from Meridian toward Pearl River ; also that his cavalry has been foiled and are in retreat westward likewise. My cavalry have orders to pursue ; my infantry will follow. In my dispatch of this morning I asked your views as to how far west I might take my re-enforcements. You are acquainted with the country.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

His Excellency President DAVIS,
*Richmond.*

* Copy sent to General Lee, at Gainesville, February 23.

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 24, 1864.
(Received Richmond, 25th.)

The following dispatch just received:

HEADQUARTERS,
*Starkville, Miss., February* 23, 1864.

Lieutenant-General POLK:

Major-General Forrest reports at 9 yesterday evening 2 miles south of Pontotoc:

"We have had severe fighting all day with the enemy. The engagement closed about dark. We have killed about 40 of the enemy and captured about 100. Our loss not known, but not so heavy as that of the enemy. The prisoners captured report 2 colonels and 1 lieutenant-colonel killed this evening. Colonel Forrest was killed this evening, Colonel Barksdale badly wounded in the breast. Colonel McCulloch wounded in the hand. We have captured four or five pieces of artillery. General Gholson came up this evening, and will follow after them and drive them as far as possible. The fighting commenced near Okolona late this evening: was obstinate, as the enemy were forced to make repeated stands to hold us in check and to save their pack-mules, &c., from stampede. The fight closed with a grand cavalry charge of the enemy's whole force. We repulsed them with heavy loss and completely routed them."

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

General Lee's own column is pressing the enemy's infantry with the view of harassing it on its retreat toward Canton. General Hardee's command has been ordered back to Dalton.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER.

—

DEMOPOLIS, *February* 27, 1864.

The following dispatch from General Lee, at Macon, just received:

A cavalry force crossed Pearl River on the 22d near Philadelphia, moving toward Kosciusko. Jackson and Ferguson left Starkville on 24th, moving westward. Richardson's brigade left Tampico same day for Grenada. At last account General Gholson was still pursuing enemy near New Albany, and had captured a good many prisoners. Forrest could not follow up his success with his main force for want of ammunition. Sherman still moving westward.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, ALA., *March* 3, 1864.

Following from one of my staff officers, dated Hillsborough:

February 26, Sixteenth Army Corps crossing Pearl River at Ratliff's Ferry; Seventeenth at Grant's Ferry, en route for Canton.

February 27, enemy finished crossing to-day. Head of column is passing through Canton.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.*

DEMOPOLIS, *March* 4, 1864.

The following just from the front:

Dispatch just received from General Jackson, dated Sharon, 7 miles from Canton, February 28. He overtook the enemy at that point. Enemy crossed the whole force at Ratliff's and Cullum's Ferries and proceeded to Canton, where they were reported short of rations and broken down. Will probably destroy portion of railroad north of Canton and go at once to Vicksburg. About 25 had been killed and a number captured. Regiments in every direction to harass them. Ferguson was on old Robinson road, 12 miles from Canton. Ross had been sent to the Yazoo to attack transports; ordnance trains had gone up. Enemy would be pursued to Big Black. Lieutenant Crump, aide-de-camp, was killed on 27th while leading a charge.

W. ELLIOTT,
*Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General.*

I hear there are many transports up the Yazoo, and have ordered re-enforcements for General Ross for their destruction.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *March* 4, 1864.

General Forrest is in urgent need of experienced brigade commanders, and nominates Col. R. M. Russell, of Tennessee, as brigadier, which I approve. Colonel Russell is a West Point graduate, and served with great distinction under me at Shiloh, commanding a brigade; also in the late operations under General Forrest in a like command. General F. has sent forward other nominations, to which I beg leave to refer—Colonels McCulloch and Bell.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.*

—

HEADQUARTERS,
*Demopolis, March* 4, 1864.

I send by Captain Vanderford accompanying dispatches, among them a communication from Major-General Forrest containing account of his operations in checking and defeating the enemy's cavalry forces intended to form a junction with his infantry at Meridian. You will perceive that it was a brilliant affair, and that it accomplished my wishes in effectually preventing General Sherman availing of his cavalry in his contemplated operations. That success destroyed his campaign. Dispatches from General Lee's forces just received are of a very gratifying character. He has overtaken the enemy on the west of Pearl River in a very exhausted state from a want of provisions and forage and a long and hurried march, and is cutting up the rear of his column. I have hope of destroying, also, some of his boats that have gone up the Yazoo toward Grenada. Ross' brigade, of Lee's division, is on the river below them and will be re-enforced, and I have another brigade above them. The result of the campaign has been thus far satisfactory, and we have not as yet seen the end of it. I shall send General For-

rest without delay into the western district to break up the Federal elections proposed to be held there within the next ten days, and to bring out other troops, horses, &c., from there and southern Kentucky.

My report of the late operations will be sent you in a few days. I refer you in the mean time to my staff officer, Captain Vanderford.

I hope that the War Department will comply with my wishes and suggestions in regard to the management of my department in the several communications recently forwarded, as they are indispensable to its efficiency and successful management.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *March* 8, 1864.

The following dispatch received from General Jackson, dated Canton, March 2, 7 p. m.:

Enemy's army (Sixteenth and Seventeenth Corps), between 25,000 and 30,000 infantry and 1,500 cavalry, left Canton that morning after remaining three days. Sherman reached there 28th; remained six hours and passed on to Vicksburg, leaving McPherson in command. Sent back 9 couriers in great haste to McPherson on 29th. Army moved immediately toward Vicksburg via Livingston and Brookville. Large number empty transports passed down the river to Vicksburg, said to be to take Sherman's army up the river. Enemy destroyed railroad 8 miles below Canton. In the country, houses burned and provisions destroyed. Over 200 of the enemy killed or captured. Ross killed 55 out of 70 negro cavalry near Yazoo City; several small wagon trains taken. Enemy destroyed no railroad bridge. Transports going down Yazoo River.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

—

DEMOPOLIS, *March* 10, 1864.

General Lee telegraphs that Ross and Richardson attacked Yazoo City on the 5th instant, capturing many stores and destroying much cotton about being shipped. Enemy retired to city, and held it until re-enforced. They were driven out of city, which was occupied while stores were being destroyed. We have quite a number of prisoners. Our loss about 50 killed and wounded. Enemy still occupy Yazoo City and Liverpool, intrenching at latter place. Sherman issued general order at Canton, in which he speaks of many regiments in his army entitled to furlough.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond.*

—

HEADQUARTERS,
*Demopolis, March* 10, 1864.

I have an investigation and report upon the damage done the railroads by the enemy in their late movements upon this department,

and herewith inclose it for information of the War Department. The day after the enemy retreated from Meridian I ordered the concentration of large working parties upon these roads for their reconstruction. You will see from the report they will all be finished in twenty days, excepting the Meridian and Jackson road. I shall increase the force upon that and shorten the time allotted for its completion. About 60 miles of telegraphic connections were destroyed. They have all been reconstructed, and all the roads and communications are re-established. They will connect with Jackson and Canton in a few days.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

General COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

[First indorsement.]

MARCH 22, 1864.

Respectfully submitted to the President for information.

The injuries done by the enemy to the railroads were very serious, but General Polk is proceeding with great zeal and energy to repair them. The interruption to communication will not be longer than was anticipated.

J. A. SEDDON,
*Secretary of War.*

[Second indorsement.]

MARCH 24, 1864.

SECRETARY OF WAR:

I have read with gratification the within statement of energetic and successful efforts to restore lines of communication in the department commanded by General Polk.

Respectfully returned.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

[Third indorsement.]

MARCH 26, 1864.

Communicate to General P. the President's indorsement, which will be gratifying to him.

J. A. S[EDDON],
*Secretary.*

[Inclosure.]

DEMOPOLIS, ALA., *March* 8, 1864.

DEAR SIR: Below please find report of damage done the railroads by the enemy in their late movement on and occupation of Meridian:

SOUTHERN RAILROAD.

Between Jackson and Meridian—4 bridges entirely destroyed, aggregate length, 950 feet; 47 bridges entirely destroyed, aggregate length 3,248 feet; 4 miles of track torn up, iron badly burned and bent, and most of the cross-ties burned. Five thousand cross-ties will be required, 300 bars of iron, and 500,000 feet of bridge timbers to complete the work. It can be done in forty days.

ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS RAILROAD.

Between Demopolis and Meridian—3 bridges entirely destroyed, aggregate length 160 feet; 5 pieces of trestle-work destroyed, aggregate length 600 feet; 9 miles track torn up, iron badly burned and bent, and about one-half the cross-ties burned; 100 rails entirely rendered unfit for service.

MOBILE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

Sixteen miles of track torn up, iron badly burned, and most of the cross-ties burned; 5 miles iron torn up, but not burned; the bridges and trestles all burned on 47 miles of road from a point 5 miles below Quitman to Lauderdale Springs and track torn up in spots. The worst destroyed track is between Enterprise and Marion Station. The bridging and trestling is of such character that it can be put up as rapidly as the iron can be straightened and the track laid. Two hundred and fifty-six negro laborers were at work on Saturday last and 250 more will be put on this week, after which the work will proceed day and night. In addition to this force a sufficient force of bridge-carpenters are at work to keep the bridges in advance of the track. I think the road can be completed by April 1. One bridge and one-fourth of a mile of trestle-work have already been completed. There is now at work on the Alabama and Mississippi Rivers Railroad 250 white laborers (soldiers), 50 negroes (laborers). One hundred and seventy-five negro laborers will be added to-day and to-morrow. One bridge 250 feet long has been completed and the timbers out for another—the most important one destroyed. One hundred hands are getting out cross-ties and the remainder straightening iron and laying track. There is a bridge force sufficient at work to keep the bridges out of the way, and the road can be finished to Meridian in two weeks. The difficulty of procuring tools and materials has hitherto retarded the work very much, but that cause has now principally been overcome.

SOUTHERN ROAD.

Sixty hands go to work to-morrow, 140 more on Monday next, and as many of the forces on the Alabama and Mississippi Rivers Railroad as may be necessary to complete it as soon as that road is through.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

SAM. TATE.

Lieutenant-General POLK.

*ADDENDA.*

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 22. HEADQUARTERS, *Demopolis, Ala., February* 26, 1864.

The lieutenant-general commanding offers his congratulations to the army on the successful termination of the campaign just closed. The cheerfulness with which the troops have borne the fatigues and inconveniences of the march and their ready acquiescence in the orders directing their movements have entitled them to the highest commendation. To the firmness and good conduct of the men and the skill and judgment of their officers in checking the enemy's march, the commanding general is indebted for securing the public stores and depriving the enemy of the railroads and other facilities

for foraging and subsistence. The concentration of our cavalry on his column of cavalry from West Tennessee formed the turning-point in the campaign. That concentration broke down his only means of subsisting his infantry, his column was defeated and routed, and his whole force compelled to make a hasty retreat. Never did a grand campaign, inaugurated with such pretensions, terminate more ingloriously. With a force three times that which was opposed to its advance they have been defeated and forced to leave the field, with a loss of men, small-arms, and artillery. Both of their columns are retreating before the squadrons of our pursuing cavalry. The lieutenant-general commanding offers his grateful thanks to the whole army, and trusts that this opening campaign of the new year may be an earnest of the successes which await us in the future.

By command of Lieutenant-General Polk :

THOS. M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 64.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army, of operations against expedition from Memphis.*

HDQRS. CAVALRY DEPT. OF W. TENN. AND N. MISS.,
*Oxford, Miss., February* 5, 1864.

DEAR SIR : I take the liberty of addressing you, believing a communication relative to the state of affairs in this department would prove interesting and perhaps of importance. I succeeded in bringing out of West Tennessee 3,100 troops, and have since received several hundred more. I regret, however, to state that the difficulties attending organizing regiments by consolidating the odds and ends of paper commands into full regiments have caused quite a number of disaffected officers and men to run away. Having also to leave West Tennessee at very short notice, and unexpectedly to many of the men, they were illy supplied with clothing and blankets, which has contributed in some measure to cause desertion. I have, nevertheless, 3,000 new troops, and hope soon to do good service with them.

The enemy have evacuated Corinth and the Memphis and Charleston Railroad as far west as Germantown, and I have ordered the destruction of the road from Corinth to La Grange. The advance of the enemy on Jackson, Miss., and up Yazoo River rendered it necessary to withdraw my command south of the Tallahatchie River in order to co-operate with Major-General Lee, should it be necessary ; otherwise the destruction of that road would have been continued farther west. This step, whenever it can be accomplished, is necessary in order to prevent its reoccupation by the enemy, and to keep open communication with West Tennessee, in which there are at this time provisions sufficient to subsist an army of 20,000 men for six months. The people of West Tennessee generally are loyal to the South, and whenever circumstances will admit of it I expect to re-enter it, and am confident I shall be able to raise and organize at least four more full regiments of troops. I regret, however, to state that the people of North Mississippi and the counties adjacent to the Mississippi River are much demoralized by the cotton trade carried on with the enemy. Have endeavored as far as possible to break up all communication with the enemy, seizing all the cotton found *in transitu*, confiscating wagons and teams, and placing the parties under heavy penal bonds

not to repeat the offense or hold any communication with the enemy or traffic with citizens inside of their military lines. As soon as the roads through the bottoms will permit the moving of troops and artillery, I hope to operate successfully against the boats navigating the Mississippi River. At present it is impracticable.

You are no doubt fully posted as to the movements of the enemy from Vicksburg and the Yazoo River against Jackson. My scouts, who have been on the river ever since the movement began, report that up to the 3d instant thirty-four transports loaded with troops have passed Friar's Point, going down. Estimated strength, 12,000. They have evacuated Fort Pillow and Columbus, and, except around Memphis, West Tennessee is almost entirely clear of Federal troops.

With an earnest desire to place in the service every available man in the department assigned me, and to secure as far as in my power the subsistence now in West Tennessee so much needed by the army,

I am, Mr. President, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS,
*President, Richmond, Va.*

[First indorsement.]

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
*March* 9, 1864.

Respectfully referred to General Bragg.

The Cavalry Department of West Tennessee and North Mississippi is not known at this office. North Mississippi and West Tennessee are within the limits of General Polk's command.

By order Adjutant and Inspector General:

H. L. CLAY,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES CONFEDERATE STATES,
*Richmond, March* 16, 1864.

Respectfully returned.

An inspection of this command has been ordered.

GEORGE WM. BRENT,
*Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

For GENERAL BRAGG.

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OXFORD, *February* 10, 1864—1 p. m.
(Received Meridian, 11th.)

Fifteen hundred infantry and 300 cavalry came out as far as Senatobia. Colonel McCulloch met and drove them back to Hickahale. I think this only a feint. Their real move is to go from Collierville to Pontotoc and strike the Prairies and Mobile and Ohio Road. Am preparing to meet that move as best I can. They have about 10,000 cavalry and mounted infantry. Smith's Dutch brigade from Columbus passed Somerville on the 7th, going in direction of Memphis; mounted recently in West Tennessee.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

OXFORD, MISS.,
*February* 11, 1864—10 p. m.

My scouts report a large force of cavalry and mounted infantry crossing Coldwater and moving toward Holly Springs from Byhalia.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Meridian* (*care Lieutenant Otey*).

—

OXFORD, *February* 11, 1864.

Letters per Lieutenant Otey received. Enemy 5 miles from Byhalia, moving east. I am concentrating all my force at this place except Forrest's brigade, at Grenada, and two regiments left to guard the Tallahatchie from Abbeville to Panola. Another column of the enemy will no doubt move from Collierville via Salem and Ripley, their destination said to [be the] Prairies and junction with Sherman. Their force is twelve regiments of cavalry and mounted infantry.

On the 4th, the Second Brigade, of the Twelfth Army Corps, passed down the river, reporting the whole corps on the way from Chattanooga for Vicksburg. Two hundred pack-mules were sent from Memphis to Germantown on the 7th. My force will be ready to move from here to-morrow morning.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

—

OXFORD, MISS.,
*February* 12, 1864.

Yazoo too low for gun-boats to get up far. About 12,000 cavalry and mounted infantry in my front. Expect they will attempt crossing Tallahatchie to-morrow. If I find they do not make a move toward Okolona and I cannot prevent their crossing, will fall back to Grenada.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.
(Care Lieutenant Otey.)

—

HEADQUARTERS,
*Grenada, Miss., February* 14, 1864—2 p. m.
(Received Gainesville, Ala., 4.45 p. m., 15th.)

I am to-day falling back from Oxford and the line of the Tallahatchie River to this place. I have skirmished with the enemy from Panola to mouth of Tippah River. Their forces are moving to my right, crossing Tippah to-day 10 miles above its mouth on the road to New Albany. I am of opinion the larger portion of their forces will move via Pontotoc to Houston or Okolona and thence southward. Their forces are variously estimated at twenty-seven to thirty-one regiments cavalry and one brigade of infantry, thirteen pieces of artillery. From the best information I can get from scouts and other sources, I think they have 10,000 to 12,000 cavalry.

Colonel Forrest's and General Chalmers' brigades move this evening to Houston. I have ordered all the balance of my forces to concentrate here, and will follow to West Point with all my forces to-morrow. Watch your right wing closely, and have General Lee's forces in position to co-operate with me. In the event the enemy proves too strong for me I shall fall back in the enemy's front toward Meridian, in case I am forced to fall back at all.

Yours,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieut. Gen. L. POLK.

—

HEADQUARTERS,
*Grenada, Miss., February* 14, 1864—8 p. m.
(Received Gainesville, Ala., 10.15 p. m., 15th.)

General Smith, with 10,000 mounted infantry and cavalry and thirty-one pieces artillery, passed Holly Springs on the evening of the 12th, going in direction of Beck's Spring and New Albany. Colonel Forrest's brigade, with battery, left here at 2 p. m. for West Point. Brigadier-General Chalmers, with Colonel McCulloch's brigade and battery of mountain howitzers, left Oxford at 4 o'clock this evening, moving in same direction. Richardson's and Bell's brigades, with two batteries, will leave here to-morrow evening at 4 o'clock, following Colonel Forrest. Lieut. Col. A. H. Forrest is on the Yazoo River with one regiment fighting gun-boats and transports. Gun-boats checked; transports moving down river. I will leave a force at this place. Look out for enemy. They may get ahead of me and attempt to gain your rear and cut railroad. Send force up the road to meet them if they can be spared. Think I can make West Point by morning of 19th.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Meridian, Miss.*

—

GRENADA, *February* 15, 1864.
(Via Macon, 10 p. m., 17th.)

My scouts report the enemy, 10,000 strong, crossing at New Albany on 13th and 14th with thirty pieces of artillery. I fear they are ahead of me. General Chalmers' brigade is moving to Houston from Oxford. Colonel Forrest's brigade left here yesterday, and I think will reach West Point by 8 a. m. to-morrow. I move from here with Bell's and Richardson's brigades at 4 o'clock in the morning, and will endeavor to fall in about Starkville.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
(Care Maj. A. M. Paxton.)

—

HDQRS. STARKVILLE, *February* 18, 1864—4 p. m.
(Received Gainesville, Ala., via Artesia, 19th.)

I have just arrived here. Have not more than 40 rounds of ammunition to the man. All my artillery will be here to-night, but the horses have been pulled through the mud and are in a broken-

down condition. If possible, send me some small-arms ammunition, caliber .54. The enemy is reported moving from Houston in this direction, but I am of opinion if they find out we are here that they will move by Greensborough. At any rate, if they are not too strong will meet and fight them. Have offered them battle two or three times, and they are evidently trying to dodge around. If I find them too strong will fall back in the direction of Macon, advising you of the fact. Have three brigades here, with all my artillery. McCulloch's brigade is 25 miles north of this. I think the enemy are fully posted of our movements, as several men [who had] been questioned by our scouts have run off and no doubt fully posted the enemy of our position, force, &c. I am ready to obey any orders you may give, and would like to be kept fully advised of your position, &c., and if the enemy is too strong will so move as to be enabled, with the assistance you may give, to meet and fight them. Have just learned that General Clark, or Governor Clark, has some ammunition, caliber .54. Cannot some of it—say 50,000 rounds—be sent up on hand-cars to Artesia? I can get along with that amount, having plenty for all other arms except the Austrian rifles and Sharps rifles. The ammunition, I understand, is at Macon or Columbus. Have an operator with me, and think it would be well to open telegraphic communication with you. Will send my operator to Artesia to-night to fit up an office at that place. If you can establish an office it will greatly facilitate communication.

And I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Major-General LEE.

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HEADQUARTERS,
*Starkville, Miss., February* 26, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 20th instant, and am under many obligations for the ordnance stores and train sent to Gainesville. I am also gratified at being able to say that your wishes in regard to the enemy's forces under Generals Smith and Grierson are realized—at least to the extent of defeat and utter rout. We met them on Sunday morning last at Ellis' Bridge, or Sakatonchee Creek, 3 miles south of West Point, in front of which Colonel Forrest's brigade was posted to prevent the enemy from crossing. After a brisk engagement of an hour and a half the enemy retired toward West Point. It was not my intention to attack them or bring on a general engagement, but to develop their strength, position, and movements. I moved forward with my escort and a portion of Faulkner's Kentucky regiment and found the enemy had begun a systematic retreat, and being unwilling they should leave the country without a fight, ordered the advance of my column. Will forward a detailed official report as soon as reports from brigade commanders are received.

It is sufficient for me to say here that with 2,500 men the enemy, numbering from 6,000 to 7,000 strong, were driven from West Point to within 10 miles of Pontotoc in two days. All his efforts to check our advance failed, and his forces at last fled utterly defeated and demoralized, leaving 6 pieces of artillery, 100 killed, over 100 prisoners, and wounded estimated at 300 or over. The seriously wounded, about 50 in number, fell into our hands. They took in their retreat every carriage, buggy, cart, and wagon along the road to remove

their killed and wounded officers, and all their slightly wounded, according to report of citizens, were moved in front with their pack train.

Our loss is about 25 killed, 75 wounded, and probably 8 or 10 captured.

Among the killed are my brother, Col. Jeff. E. Forrest, commanding brigade; Lieutenant-Colonel Barksdale, commanding George's regiment, and several other officers whose names are not now remembered.

It affords me pleasure to mention the fortitude and gallantry displayed by the troops engaged, especially the new troops from West Tennessee, who, considering their want of drill, discipline, and experience, behaved handsomely, and the moral effect of their victory over the best cavalry in the Federal service will tell in their future operations against the enemy, inspiring them with courage and confidence in their ability to whip them again. Considering the disparity in numbers, discipline, and drill, I consider it one of the most complete victories that have occurred since the war began.

After the enemy succeeded in reaching the hills between Okolona and Pontotoc, the resistance of the enemy was obstinate, compelling me frequently to dismount my advance to drive them from favorable positions defended by the broken condition of the country. About 300 men of the Second Tennessee Cavalry, under Colonel Barteau, and the Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, Colonel Duckworth, received the repeated charges of seven regiments of the enemy in open ground, drove them back time after time, finally driving them from the field, capturing three stand of colors and another piece of their artillery. A great deal of the fighting was almost hand to hand, and the only way I can account for our small loss is the fact that we kept so close to them that the enemy overshot our men. Owing to the broken down and exhausted condition of men and horses, and being almost out of ammunition, I was compelled to stop pursuit.

Major-General Gholson arrived during Monday night, and his command, being comparatively fresh, continued the pursuit, and when last heard from was still driving the enemy, capturing horses and prisoners. The enemy had crossed the Tallahatchie River on the night of the 23d, burning the bridge behind them at New Albany and retreating rapidly toward Memphis, with Gholson still in pursuit.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieut. Gen. L. POLK.

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HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY DEPARTMENT,
*Columbus, Miss., March* 8, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the movements and operations of my command against the Federal forces under command of General Smith, in the engagements of the 20th, 21st, and 22d ultimo:

Learning on the 14th ultimo, at Oxford, that the enemy was moving in heavy force in the direction of Pontotoc, and believing his destination to be the Prairies, and from thence a junction with Sherman, I withdrew all my forces from the Tallahatchie and Yazoo Rivers and moved rapidly to Starkville, which place I reached on the evening of the 18th ultimo.

On the 19th, the enemy were reported at Okolona, but his movements or intended course was not developed, and fearing he might

cross the Tombigbee, I ordered Bell's brigade to Columbus and also dispatched General Ruggles to use all his effective force to prevent them from doing so. At the same time ordered Brigadier-General Chalmers, commanding division, to send Forrest's brigade to Aberdeen, or in that direction, to meet and ascertain the movements of the enemy; and also with McCulloch's brigade of his division, and Richardson's brigade, under Colonel Neely, to move out to West Point, leaving General Richardson at Starkville in command of all the dismounted men of the command to protect my wagon train, and send out scouts in the direction of Houston in order to give timely notice should the enemy divide his forces and move in that direction.

On the morning of the 20th, Colonel Forrest met the enemy in force and fell back toward West Point, skirmishing with them, but avoiding an engagement. In repelling their attacks he lost 2 men killed and several wounded and captured. I moved over to his assistance with General Chalmers and his remaining brigade, taking with me also Richardson's brigade and two batteries of artillery, joining Colonel Forrest within 3 miles of West Point. Finding the enemy in heavy force, and having been informed that General Lee was moving to my assistance, and desiring to delay a general engagement as long as possible, I determined at once to withdraw my forces south of Sakatonchee Creek, which I did, camping a portion of them near Ellis' Bridge and the remainder at Siloam. After crossing the river a courier reported the enemy as having crossed the river 8 miles above Ellis' Bridge, destroying mills and taking horses and negroes. With five companies of Faulkner's regiment and my escort I moved rapidly to the point, clearly designated by the smoke of the burning mill, gained the bridge, and succeeded in capturing the squad, which proved to be a lieutenant and 22 privates of the Fourth Regulars, U. S. Cavalry. Fearing the enemy might attempt to cross at the upper bridge during the night, I ordered its destruction and concentrated my force at Ellis' Bridge, 3 miles from West Point. This bridge I determined, if possible, to defend and preserve, because it was necessary in the event we could drive back the enemy to use it in advancing on them; and had I allowed the enemy to cross it and then succeeded in driving them back they would have burned it behind them, rendering pursuit impossible without heading the stream.

During the night all was quiet. On Sunday morning, the 21st, the vedettes and pickets were driven in, and the enemy reported advancing from West Point in full force. I had ordered General Chalmers to dismount his division, throwing Forrest's brigade across the creek in front of the bridge, while McCulloch's brigade took possession of the south bank of the stream to support Colonel Forrest and protect him in the event he was compelled to retire and recross the stream. Dispatches were sent to General Richardson to move up all his force to the bridge across Line Creek, 8 miles of Starkville and 4 miles in my rear; also to Colonel Barteau to move across the Tombigbee, to keep on the flank, and, if possible, to gain the enemy's rear. I ordered Colonel Neely to move his (Richardson's) brigade at once, and to guard all the ferries and fords across Tibbee River from the mouth of Line Creek to Tibbee Station, sending Major-General Gholson with the State forces under his command to Palo Alto to watch any movement of the enemy from the direction of Houston. In making these necessary dispositions my effective force in front of the enemy was reduced to Chalmers' division, my escort, and two batteries. The enemy attacked Colonel Forrest at 8 o'clock, and after a fight of two

hours were repulsed with considerable loss. The hastily-improvised breast-works of rails and logs thrown up by Colonel Forrest greatly protected his men, and our casualties during this fight were 7 men wounded.

As the enemy withdrew I followed them with my escort and a portion of Faulkner's regiment, mounted; also with a section of Morton's battery, supported by a regiment from McCulloch's brigade on foot. Our advance at first was necessarily slow and cautious. I soon ascertained, after a few well-directed shots from our artillery, that the enemy had begun a rapid and systematic retreat, and dashed on after them, sending back orders to General Chalmers to send forward to me, as rapidly as possible, 2,000 of his best mounted men and Hoole's battery of mountain howitzers. I soon came on their rear guard, charged it with my escort and Faulkner's command, and drove it before me. They made several stands, but Colonel McCulloch, with his brigade, having caught up, we continued to charge and drive them on, killing and wounding 15 or 20 of them and capturing a number of prisoners.

Night came on, and we kept so close to the enemy that my men mistook each other for the enemy and fired a volley at each other, without, however, doing any damage. Fearing a recurrence of such mistakes, and considering the great risk necessarily incurred in following and fighting a superior force after dark, I determined to encamp for the night and resume the chase at daylight next morning.

Early next morning, the column moved forward, taking a different road. With my escort I came upon and charged the enemy 4 miles from Okolona, and drove their rear guard into town, when I found them drawn up in line of battle and apparently awaiting our arrival. Colonel Barteau, with Bell's brigade, had also reached Okolona, and was in line of battle awaiting the arrival of the balance of my forces. Leaving my escort in line as skirmishers, with my staff I made a circuit around the town, took command of Bell's brigade, and advanced upon them. They received us with a volley and charged with yells, but were handsomely repulsed in the open field and forced to retreat, which they did rapidly and in confusion, using every exertion to check pursuit by ambuscading and forming regiments on either side of the road, who would fire and retreat successively Before attempting or being able to make a stand of any kind they were crowded so closely that they cut out the horses and abandoned five pieces of artillery (some of the pieces spiked), and gaining the broken and hilly country on the Pontotoc road their resistance became more stubborn. They had every advantage in selecting position, and to drive and dislodge them I was compelled to dismount the most of my command, and fought the last 9 miles on foot. About 5 miles from Okolona they formed and awaited us, making a determined stand, McCulloch's and Forrest's brigades both arriving with Hoole's battery. After a short but obstinate resistance the enemy gave way.

In this engagement Colonel Forrest was killed while rallying and leading his men. In a few miles they again formed, and having dismounted a portion of their men and made breast-works of the fences on each side of the road, they were with some difficulty and hard fighting compelled again to retire. In driving them at this point, Lieutenant-Colonel Barksdale, commanding Fifth Mississippi Regiment, fell mortally wounded.

Ten miles from Pontotoc they made a last and final effort to check pursuit, and from their preparations, numbers, and advantageous position no doubt indulged the hope of success. They had formed in three lines across a large field on the left of the road, but which a turn in the road made it directly in our front. Their lines were at intervals of several hundred paces, and the rear and second lines longer than the first. As the advance of my column moved up they opened on us with artillery. My ammunition was nearly exhausted, and I knew that if we faltered they would in turn become the attacking party, and that disaster might follow. Many of my men were broken down and exhausted with clambering the hills on foot and fighting almost constantly for the last 9 miles. I determined, therefore, relying upon the bravery and courage of the few men I had up, to advance to the attack. As we moved up, the whole force charged down at a gallop, and I am proud to say that my men did not disappoint me. Standing firm, they repulsed the grandest cavalry charge I ever witnessed. The Second and Seventh Tennessee drove back the advance line, and as it wheeled in retreat poured upon them a destructive fire. Each successive line of the enemy shared the same fate and fled the field in dismay and confusion, and losing another piece of artillery, and leaving it strewn with dead and wounded men and horses.

Half of my command were out of ammunition, the men and horses exhausted and worn down with two days' hard riding and fighting, night was at hand, and further pursuit impossible.

Major-General Gholson arrived during the night. His command was small, but comparatively fresh. I ordered him to follow on the next morning and press them across the Tallahatchie. Having received no official report from him, I cannot give any details of his pursuit after them.

Considering the disparity in numbers and equipments, I regard the defeat of this force, consisting as it did of the best cavalry in the Federal army, as a victory of which all engaged in it may justly feel proud. It has given, for a time at least, peace and security to a large scope of rich country whose inhabitants anticipated and expected to be overrun, devastated and laid waste, and its moral effect upon the raw, undisciplined and undrilled troops of this command is in value incalculable. It has inspired them with courage and given them confidence in themselves and their commanders. Although many of them were but recently organized, they fought with a courage and daring worthy of veterans.

I herewith transmit you a list of casualties, which, under all the circumstances, is small, and especially so when compared with that of the enemy.

The killed and wounded of the enemy who fell into our hands amounts to over 100. We captured 6 pieces of artillery, 3 stand of colors, and 162 prisoners. By pressing every horse, buggy, carriage, and vehicle along the road they were enabled to take off all their wounded, except those severely or mortally wounded, and it is but reasonable to suppose and a low estimate to place their loss in killed, wounded, and missing at 800.

My force in the fight did not exceed 2,500 men, while that of the enemy was twenty-seven regiments of cavalry and mounted infantry, estimated at 7,000 strong.

I regret the loss of some gallant officers. The loss of my brother, Col. J. E. Forrest, is deeply felt by his brigade as well as myself, and it is but just to say that for sobriety, ability, prudence, and

bravery he had no superior of his age. Lieutenant-Colonel Barksdale was also a brave and gallant man, and his loss fell heavily on the regiment he commanded, as it was left now without a field officer.

I desire to testify my appreciation of the skill and ability of Colonels McCulloch, Russell, and Duckworth, commanding brigades. Colonel McCulloch, although wounded on the evening of the 22d, continued in command. Colonel Russell assumed command of Bell's brigade after the injury to Colonel Barteau, and Colonel Duckworth took command of Forrest's brigade after Colonel Forrest fell on the morning of the 22d ultimo.

I have formally congratulated and returned my thanks to the officers and troops of my command for their gallant and meritorious conduct; for their energy, endurance, and courage, and it would afford me pleasure to mention individual instances of daring and dash which came under my own observation but for fear of doing apparent injustice to others who in other parts of the field perhaps did as well.

My escort deserves especial mention: Commanded by Lieut. Thomas S. Tate on the 21st, and by its commander, Captain Jackson, on the 22d, its battle-flag was foremost in the fray, sustaining its reputation as one of the best fighting cavalry companies in the service. I also desire to acknowledge, as I have often done before, my indebtedness to Maj. J. P. Strange, my assistant adjutant-general; Capt. Charles W. Anderson, my aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant Tate, assistant inspector-general, for prompt and faithful services rendered in the delivery and execution of all my orders on the field.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

[Lieut. Col. THOMAS M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*]

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*Return of casualties in Forrest's cavalry in the engagements of February* 20, 21, *and* 22, 1864.

[Compiled from nominal list.]

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Missing. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| Staff | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| 12th Kentucky (Faulkner's) | *a*2 | 5 | 1 | 14 | ..... | ..... | 22 |
| 3d Mississippi | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| 5th Mississippi | *b*1 | 2 | ..... | 3 | ..... | 3 | 9 |
| 19th Mississippi Battalion | *c*3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | ..... | 1 | 18 |
| 2d Missouri Battalion | ..... | 1 | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| 2d Tennessee | ..... | ..... | 3 | 4 | ..... | ..... | 7 |
| 7th Tennessee | ..... | 2 | 2 | 14 | ..... | 3 | 21 |
| Forrest's regiment | *d*1 | 1 | ..... | 2 | ..... | 12 | 16 |
| McDonald's battalion | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | ..... | ..... | 4 |
| Russell's regiment | ..... | 2 | 3 | 15 | ..... | 1 | 21 |
| Willis' Texas battalion | ..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Wilson's regiment | ..... | ..... | 3 | 8 | ..... | ..... | 11 |
| Escort company | ..... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| Red's (Mississippi) company | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Total | 7 | 20 | 17 | 80 | ..... | 20 | 144 |

*a* Capt. E. D. Williams and Lieut. W. J. Yandle.
*b* Lieut. Col. J. A. Barksdale.
*c* Lieuts. J. T. Morris, N. Rayburn, and A. Swaim.
*d* Col. Jeff. E. Forrest.

*ADDENDA.*

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS,
No. 63. } *Demopolis, Ala., March* 3, 1864.

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X. The lieutenant-general commanding takes pleasure in congratulating the officers and men of the commands of Major-General Lee and Major-General Forrest upon the brilliant and successful campaign just closed. It marks an era in this war full of honor to our arms and calculated to teach a useful lesson to our enemies. They came by thousands with glistening bayonets and confident of their strength. Their proclaimed and boasted object was to overrun and desolate our country, if not to strike a death-blow to our cause. They have been forced to return, beaten and distracted and pursued by our cavalry. Their retreating columns may be tracked by their dead and their lost arms and equipments. The lieutenant-general commanding tenders his thanks and the thanks of his countrymen to Generals Lee and Forrest and the gallant spirits who follow them for the glorious results which have crowned their efforts, fully vindicating as they do the cavalry arm of the service and entitling it to the confidence and respect of all patriots.

By command of Lieutenant-General Polk:

THOS. M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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CIRCULAR.] HDQRS. FORREST'S CAVALRY DEPARTMENT,
*Columbus, March* 11, 1864.

The major-general commanding desires to return his thanks and acknowledgments to the officers and men of his command for their recent gallant and meritorious conduct in defeating and routing the largest, most carefully selected, and best equipped cavalry and mounted infantry command ever sent into the field by the enemy. And it affords him both pleasure and pride to say that by your ability, unflinching bravery, and endurance, a force three times your own was defeated, routed, demoralized, and driven from the country, his plans frustrated, his ends unaccomplished, and his forces cut to pieces. Thus by your valor and courage you have given safety and security to the homes and firesides of the defenseless and helpless inhabitants of the country, whose grateful acknowledgments are showered upon you and whose prayers daily and nightly ascend to heaven for your future prosperity and success.

The major-general commanding deplores the loss of some of his bravest officers and men. They have fallen in the discharge of their duty as soldiers and patriots, and have yielded up their lives in defense of all that man holds dear. He desires that you cherish their memory, emulate their example, and achieve your independence or perish in the attempt.

In conclusion, the major-general commanding desires to say that all who were engaged may feel justly proud of their participation in a victory so pregnant with disaster to the enemy and so glorious in its results to our cause, and which has delivered a grateful people from that oppression, devastation, and destruction which follows the footsteps of a dastardly and brutal foe.

By your past conduct and heroism he confidently relies upon and predicts your future success in whipping the enemy wherever you meet them.

By command of Major-General Forrest:

J. P. STRANGE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 65.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army, of operations against expedition to Meridian.*

NEAR BOLTON,
*February* 4, 1864—2.56 p. m.

Enemy are advancing cautiously on Raymond and Clinton road in line of battle; also on road from Messinger's Ferry to Queen's Hill; now near Queen's Hill. General Ross repulsed enemy with heavy loss at 5 yesterday evening. Enemy leaving large numbers of dead on the field; had apparently drawn off for night. Their object seems to be Jackson. On this [side] of Big Black they all have twenty days' rations, so prisoners say. Have had 6 killed so far, and heavy skirmishing going on.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Colonel YOUNG.

—

NINE MILES BEYOND CLINTON,
*February* 4, 1864—4 p. m.

The enemy has advanced slowly in line to-day. Severe skirmishing during day. His force numbers at least 15,000 men, mostly infantry. There is also force of enemy advancing from Messinger's Ferry via Queen's Hill. His intention seems to be to move on Clinton and Jackson. Our loss is about 10 killed; a good many wounded, among the number several officers, including the gallant Major Bridges. Unable to tell the force on Queen's Hill and Clinton road yet. Adams' brigade has done the fighting and acted gallantly. General Ross, of the Texas brigade, made a most gallant fight yesterday evening on the Yazoo. Fought the enemy on foot with pistols at 12 paces, repulsing them with severe loss, enemy leaving killed and wounded in our hands. Heavy and continuous firing heard on the Yazoo to-day. No report from Ross as yet.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Maj. Gen. S. G. FRENCH.

(Copy sent to Generals Polk, Loring, and Forrest.)

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NEAR CULLUM'S, CANTON AND JACKSON ROAD,
*February* 6, 1864—6 p. m.

GENERAL: Your note of 10.30 is received. The enemy are advancing on me from Jackson; their cavalry is 5 miles out. My command is concentrated here and at Madison Station. I will not

send you a regiment, as Wilbourn's regiment is at Brandon and I sent a squadron to General French. I will change the route of the trains to Morton, and will come to your assistance if the enemy pursue you. He has two full corps, numbering 25,000 or 30,000 men, so all the prisoners state, and my observation confirms it. They have a pontoon train. I will try and protect the Central road and the country from cavalry raids, and as soon as a little rested will move to the rear of enemy as the cavalry is coming in on this route. Infantry is also reported as coming in this direction behind their cavalry. There are exaggerated reports as to my loss yesterday. My men did good fighting, but was compelled to withdraw a brigade rapidly, separating it from me in front, which gave rise to the rumor. My loss so far is about 130 killed and wounded. The infantry of [the] enemy entered the city with my rear guard at dark. I lost one piece of artillery which was moving to the rear for ammunition, and captured by a regiment of cavalry about dark. Please inform General Polk. Heavy firing on Yazoo yesterday. Have not heard from Ross.

Yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

[General LORING ?]

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HDQRS. ON ROAD, 25 MILES FROM GARLANDVILLE,
*February* 10, 1864—12 m.

GENERAL: Your dispatch of yesterday morning relative to covering the Mobile and Ohio Railroad was received last night at 9 p. m., and I started with two brigades at 1 a. m. Ferguson has one-half of the cavalry in front of the enemy, and can cover Hillsborough and Newton and watch the railroad near Meridian. I will be near Garlandville to-night. Am now feeding and resting for two hours. I have no cavalry in rear of enemy now. Ross ought to be up in three days. I think I will order him to remain in rear on the railroad. Regret you were not able to fight this single column, as I fear there will be two at Mobile. The intention of the enemy, I think, is to go to Meridian first. He may then turn toward Mobile (but I doubt it) soon after he reaches Meridian. I think a large column of cavalry is coming down the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, which will unite with Sherman at Meridian. There is little opportunity to do much with the enemy on the march. He moves in perfect order, with every precaution. Each brigade has its train behind it, and flankers out. A battery accompanies each brigade, and they have a large amount of artillery. Their force certainly does not exceed 30,000. Lieutenant Harvey, my most reliable scout, who has been watching them since leaving Big Black, thinks it does not exceed 25,000. I would like to know your wishes in regard to my cavalry. Should the enemy move toward Mobile, there will be great difficulty in subsisting it. The enemy have destroyed the railroad wherever it has been convenient for them. Jackson came from Brandon yesterday to Pelahatchie. Picked up some prisoners—6 deserters from our army going with Yankee passes.

Yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

FOUR MILES FROM NEWTON,
*Hillsborough and Garlandville Road, Feb.* 11, 1864—3.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I may have reported enemy on the south of railroad, as it was the main stage road to Morton, but never reported them bearing down on Mobile to General Loring. The enemy went above railroad at Morton toward Hillsborough. Their cavalry (about 100) were in Lake this morning, burning it. Is possible the enemy may be on the Hillsborough and Garlandville road above railroad; they are not south. It has never been my opinion so far that the enemy would move on Mobile before going to Meridian. Will cover Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

Yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

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HEADQUARTERS,
*Five Miles South of Lake Station, February* 11, 1864.

GENERAL: I send you an extract of a letter from Dr. Buck, one of the most reliable citizens of Jackson. He writes:

The army of Sherman numbers at least 40,000 (certainly not over 45,000), 2,500 of whom are mounted. They are perfectly and completely appointed in every respect. This column, in my opinion, is the right wing of Grant's army, and if it can be destroyed will defeat the last and ablest effort of the Yankees to subjugate the South. If they succeed, I dare not look at the probable future.

I have heard nothing from my scouts this morning. The enemy seem to have slackened in their march. I have scouts watching their movements closely, and will report as soon as I hear from them. I have ordered Ferguson back to Newton, as I am now in position to meet enemy in this direction.

Yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Meridian.*

P. S.—The enemy were not at Forest last night, nor at Lake. They must have taken the Hillsborough road at Morton, and are either following Loring or are on the Hillsborough and Garlandville road. Ferguson is near Garlandville. I have ordered him toward Newton and to get in front of the enemy.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

—

NEWTON,
*February* 11, 1864—6.30 p. m.

Am now at this point. Have sent Ferguson to get in front of enemy on Hillsborough and Decatur road. The enemy are evidently on that road and moving on Meridian. Please notify me when and where you expect to fight, that I may have a hand at proper time. Never reported to General Loring, at Morton, that it was my opinion the enemy were south of the railroad and bearing on Mobile. Have examined my letters. I suggested the possibility, and stated that I

sent Ferguson to cover his front and the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. This was sent from Smith's Ferry when he should have known more of enemy than myself. Will keep office open all night. Enemy's cavalry have left Lake in direction of Hillsborough.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieut. Gen. L. POLK.

—

NEWTON, *February* 11, 1864.

Colonel Maxwell, commanding regiment of cavalry, reports from near Decatur at 5 p. m. that the enemy crossed at creek where bridge was burned about 10 a. m. to-day, and will encamp 4 miles west of Decatur to-night. General Loring reports having trouble with the roads, and as having been delayed by them. Scouts report the enemy's scouts 6 miles west of Decatur, on the Hillsborough road. The following is the note of Colonel Maxwell:

HEADQUARTERS BALLENTINE'S REGIMENT CAVALRY,
*Four and a half Miles East of Decatur*—5 p. m.

Since writing to General Loring this morning I find that the enemy are still advancing on this road. They will encamp to-night about 4 miles west of Decatur. I was led to believe this morning that they had left this road, as my scouts went to the creek where they came to on yesterday and found none at that point, and so reported to me. After remaining there some time, the enemy made their appearance and commenced crossing (this creek is some 13 miles from Decatur) about 10 a. m. to-day.

W. L. MAXWELL,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

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NEWTON, *February* 12, 1864—1.45 a. m.

Yours of 10 p. m. received. Adams' brigade is here. Starke's brigade 4 miles from here, south. Ferguson is now in front of enemy on Decatur road. Have not heard from Ross since sending my order for him to join me. Expect him in about three days. You order me to concentrate my command. Did you intend me to order Ferguson from where he is? I presume you did not, and will not order him till I hear from you. The other two brigades are together, or only a few miles apart. I need about 300 horses for dismounted men; 200 were killed in recent fights. Some dismounted men are with train at or near Meridian. Waties' battery needs 100 horses badly to mount his men and replace broken-down horses. He needs forty saddles, bridles, &c. Colonel Perrin, with Ferguson, has no cartridge-boxes. Please answer as to horses and as to Ferguson leaving his position and joining me.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

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NEWTON, *February* 12, 1864.

Have ordered Waties' battery to Enterprise, as horses and men are broken down. Please send horses for him there. I move on

Decatur in half hour to attack enemy this evening, as he evinces no disposition as yet to cut Mobile and Ohio Railroad. Leave operator here.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

—

NEWTON, *February* 12, 1864.

The enemy commenced moving through Decatur early this morning. Are now moving to that point.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

General POLK.

—

NEWTON, *February* 12, 1864.

Made a dash at the enemy at Decatur this p. m. Their column was well closed and guarded. About twenty wagons were disabled by the mules being killed. Could not bring them off. The enemy advanced in line five minutes after the dash. About 8 men were killed and wounded. Will move between him and Chunky's to-morrow. The enemy were in Decatur at dark. They commenced to pass at daylight this morning. Adams and Starke together number only 1,300 men, effective.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

—

FIVE MILES ABOVE NEWTON,
*February* 13, 1864—8 a. m.

Your dispatch of 5 a. m. received. Looking at the map, I could not get between the enemy and Mobile and Ohio Railroad above Meridian in time to prevent their striking the railroad if they intend it, as their rear is now in Decatur and their advance must be 15 miles beyond. I do not credit the report of Major Steede. Their force is on the Decatur and Meridian road. Will endeavor to execute your order by moving south of the Decatur and Meridian road and cross in front of enemy if necessary. Will move at once to a point just north of Chunky's Station. Please send orders there. Will have office at Newton kept open two hours to receive any dispatch from you. You can reach Ferguson more promptly than I can. He could watch above.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

—

FIVE MILES NORTH OF NEWTON,
*February* 13, 1864—8 a. m.

The enemy had a strong picket out from Decatur last night toward Newton, and were firing volleys at imaginary objects all night.

The dash of yesterday evening has alarmed them much. Their train was passing till 1 a. m. this morning. Could you not impede their advance by felling trees in the Chunky bottom? Have not received your letter about offering battle.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

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ON ROAD, *February* 13, 1864—9 a. m.

My command is now in motion for a point 4 miles north of Chunky's Station. The detour above the Decatur and Meridian road would have been too far. The enemy were passing through Decatur about one hour ago. They are having trouble with the roads and bridges.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

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FEBRUARY 13, 1864—10 a. m.

GENERAL: I am at a loss as to my moves, not knowing what your intention [is] as to offering battle, &c. I send Dr. Hicks, of my staff, to see you and to rejoin me, and if you think proper you can intrust a message to me by him. My command is much reduced by the recent active service and long marches. The two brigades together do not number 1,400 (Adams' and Starke's). I think I could do much to annoy enemy on march since my dash yesterday evening, as they were much frightened by it. Will endeavor to get above them if possible and between the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, but I fear it is too late.

Yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Meridian.*

—

CHUNKY'S STATION,
*February* 13, 1864—6.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I am at this point feeding. Will have to go to Meridian, as there is no road crossing Decatur and Meridian road from this point over Chunky Hills in front of the enemy. Enemy's rear guard was in Decatur at 10 to-day. Shall I come on to-night to get above railroad, or can I attack enemy in flank to-morrow opposite here? All quiet in our rear to Big Black. Ross was at Sharon, near Canton, night of 10th. Forrest reports on the 10th McCulloch met and drove back 1,500 infantry and 300 cavalry from above Senatobia; that four brigades of cavalry were at Collierville to move via Salem and Pontotoc for the purpose of gaining our rear. I do not think there is anything in Major Steede's report.

I am, general, yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Meridian.*

P. S.—I send this by courier, as the telegraph is not working yet. The advance of the enemy was at Tallahatta Creek most of the day, where they were repairing the bridge. I am cooking rations here, and am opposite their advance. A scout just from Decatur reports rear guard of enemy (cavalry) in Decatur at 12.30 to-day. Can you furnish any horses for dismounted men? There are a number of dismounted men in Meridian who might be mounted and sent out.

Yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

—

CHUNKY'S STATION,
*February* 13, 1864.

GENERAL: I was compelled to send Waties' battery to the rear to Enterprise, as horses and men were broken down. He had but 6 horses to a piece and his men on foot. I have but one section with me. Would like to have a good battery, if possible, and the men mounted. Croft's battery was loaned to Ferguson, and he sent it to Meridian. Would like that battery to join also. I send this by an officer, who will explain.

I am, general, yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Commanding.*

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ALAMUTCHE, *February* 17, 1864—7.20 p. m.

Received your dispatch inclosing Forrest's telegrams. Jackson, with Ross and Starke, is now in position on Mobile and Ohio Railroad, above Lauderdale Springs. Will move with Ferguson to-morrow morning, and Adams will follow. Will leave one regiment to cover Demopolis. The enemy have been engaged tearing up railroad to-day above Meridian. Have not heard from below yet; hope to hear to-night. Enemy have as yet indicated no certain direction from Meridian. Prisoners taken to-day say that talk in camp is that they are to return to Vicksburg. Will dispatch again to-night.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

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SEVEN MILES EAST OF LAUDERDALE SPRINGS,
*February* 18, 1864—8.15 p. m.

I am here to-night. Will leave in the morning for Scooba Station. Enemy still quietly encamped at Old Marion. Have not worked on railroad to-day. They are evidently prepared for a move, but in what direction I cannot say. There is at least a division there and two regiments of cavalry. Have heard nothing from below Meridian to-day, nor from General Forrest.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieut. Gen. L. POLK.

CUBA, *February* 18, 1864—2.20 p. m.

The scouts report that the Demopolis Railroad is destroyed for about 10 miles from Meridian. The Federals went back to Old Marion last night, and the indications are that they are returning to Meridian this morning. I have not been able to stop or hear of my train for five days. If Major Quaite, quartermaster, and Captain Clark, ordnance officer, are at Demopolis, please order ammunition wagons, both artillery and small-arms, to vicinity of Scooba Station. I need about 300 rounds of 3-inch rifle, and ammunition for short Enfield, Austrian, and Sharps rifles. Please send it if Clark has not arrived. Captain Clark had to go by Enterprise, and left there on morning of 15th for Demopolis. Colonel Perrin is left here. I will remain here several hours to hear from you. Answer.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

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GAINESVILLE, *February* 20, 1864—9.30 a. m.

GENERAL: My command (two brigades with me) is moving toward Macon and will encamp 10 miles from there to-night. Jackson's two brigades are at Macon this morning. Forrest is moving from Starkville toward Columbus this morning. Yankees were at Aberdeen yesterday evening. Should enemy cross and make for Selma I will intercept them if Forrest does not. You had better have Selma guarded. Colonel Perrin reports enemy had advanced on him up Demopolis Railroad and from Lauderdale Depot, still burning railroad. Please order Major Quaite to keep his train in a safe place east of the Tombigbee. Have sent him orders; he may not have received them. Forrest needs ammunition, caliber .54; at least 50,000 rounds. Can hear nothing of my ordnance train yet. Inclosed find latest from Forrest and Perrin. The command passed 8 miles west of this place.

Yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Demopolis.*

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HEADQUARTERS,
*Macon, Miss., February* 21, 1864.

Yours of 10 a. m. 20th just received. Forrest reports 20th, 8 p. m., his forces on south of the Sakatonchee, and thinks he can hold them in check between that stream and the Tombigbee and avoid a general engagement a day and longer there, and also at Line Creek, until I get up. The force of the enemy moved from Aberdeen to West Point yesterday. Their force is 6,000 or 8,000, under General Smith. Two of my brigades left here this morning for Starkville via Artesia; other two now passing through town for Starkville direct. Forrest is confident, and everything looks cheering. My command will be well up to-night. The force of the enemy that went to Enterprise was about 8,000. They destroyed all public buildings there and at Quitman. Colonel Perrin reports on 19th that en-

emy were quiet at Meridian and Old Marion. Will keep you well advised. Governor Clark has received your dispatch and is acting on it.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Demopolis, Ala.*

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HEADQUARTERS LEE'S CAVALRY,
*Tuscaloosa, Ala., April* 18, 1864.

COLONEL: The following is submitted as my report of the operations of the cavalry under my command during the recent campaign in Mississippi:

During the latter part of January the enemy commenced to concentrate a large force at Vicksburg, bringing large re-enforcements from Memphis and above and evacuating the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. To oppose this force Jackson's division was in position as follows: Ross' Texas brigade was guarding the Yazoo River and Mississippi Central Railroad, being posted at Benton; Starke's Mississippi brigade was at Brownsville watching the crossings of Big Black, opposite Vicksburg; Adams' brigade was moved from the vicinity of Natchez to Raymond.

About January 28, the enemy commenced their demonstrations up Yazoo River with their boats, and moved their cavalry up toward Mechanicsburg. These demonstrations continued daily to February 5, and were handsomely met by the gallant Texans under Ross, fighting their gun-boats and infantry and repulsing them on every occasion. At Liverpool two small regiments and a section of artillery of King's battery, under Lieutenant Moore, repulsed three large regiments of infantry of the enemy, supported by their gun-boats. The enemy charged in gallant style, and were repulsed twice, the second time the Texans using their six-shooters at 20 paces. The two regiments were the Sixth and Ninth Texas. The gun-boats and transports went down the Yazoo on the 5th, abandoning for a time any attempt to land troops.

On the evening of February 3, while these demonstrations were going on on the Yazoo, the enemy commenced crossing the Big Black rapidly at the railroad bridge, and at Messinger's Ferry, 6 miles above. They advanced toward Clinton on the two roads from the two crossings, and on the 4th Adams' and Starke's brigades engaged them, and it was soon discovered, after heavy skirmishing, that there was at least two corps of the enemy—one on each road. Their force was estimated at 20,000.

On the 5th, at dawn, the enemy advanced in heavy line of battle on both roads, and it was discovered by their developments and from prisoners that their army consisted of McPherson's and Hurlbut's corps and a brigade of cavalry, numbering in all about 26,000 men. The advance of the enemy was rapid, the open country enabling him to march his force with ease on several roads. The two brigades were steadily driven back to Jackson, where they arrived about dark.

Too much praise cannot be given officers and men for the gallant manner in which they fought this superior force, every man knowing by actual observation the strength of the enemy.

Jackson was occupied by the enemy on the morning of the 6th, my command having passed through the city the previous evening,

taking the Canton road to cover Canton and enable General Loring to cross with his division over Pearl River to Brandon from Canton. Brig. Gen. S. W. Ferguson's brigade, which joined me at Clinton on the 4th, took the road from Clinton to Madison Station.

On the evening of the 6th, finding the enemy made no advance toward Canton, the four brigades were put in position to cross Pearl River in case the enemy should do so at Jackson, and a regiment was sent to Brandon to cover that place and watch the crossing at Jackson.

Late on the 7th, I ascertained the enemy were crossing, and early on the 8th crossed Pearl River, sending Ferguson's brigade to Morton to cover Major-General Loring's front, and ordered Jackson with his two brigades (Adams' and Starke's) to move on the flank of the enemy at Brandon and Pelahatchie Station. At the same time ordered Ross to abandon the Yazoo country and join his division, as the enemy were moving on Meridian. Jackson's two brigades did their work handsomely, driving in the enemy's foraging parties and compelling them to march on one road. It was impossible to damage the enemy much, as he marched in perfect order, his trains being divided between the brigades and kept in close order.

On the night of the 9th, I received an order while in rear of the enemy at Pelahatchie Station from the lieutenant-general to cover the Mobile and Ohio Railroad south of Meridian to enable him to return to Mobile its garrison which he had withdrawn, as he then believed the enemy would move on Mobile and not on Meridian.

On the 11th, 4 miles south of Newton Station, I met General Ferguson, who had been ordered to the same position as myself by the lieutenant-general and for the same object. I at once ordered him to the Decatur and Meridian road to place himself in front of the enemy, as it was then evident he was moving on Meridian and not Mobile.

On the 12th, with a part of Adams' brigade, a dash was made on the flank of the enemy at Decatur, disabling a train of about thirty wagons. The infantry of the enemy advanced in line of battle in a few moments after the dash, showing that they marched with every precaution. The proximity of the infantry of the enemy would not allow the wagons to be brought off.

On the 13th, an order was received from the lieutenant-general to cover the Mobile and Ohio Railroad above Meridian. At the time of the receipt of this order the position of the enemy and his advance rendered it impossible to comply with the order in time to effect the object desired, and with Jackson's two divisions I moved to Chunky's Station, and during the night received an order to move to Meridian to cover the retreat of the army from that point to Demopolis. Only one brigade could reach Meridian, owing to the rapid advance of the enemy, the other being compelled to make a detour to the right.

The enemy occupied Meridian about 3 p. m. on February 14, Starke's and Ferguson's brigades skirmishing heavily with them at Meridian. By an order of the lieutenant-general commanding, on the 14th I was placed in command of all the cavalry west of Alabama, and at once put myself in communication with Major-General Forrest. In retiring from Meridian my command moved toward Old Marion.

On the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th, the enemy devoted himself to destroying the railroads north, south, and east from Meridian, put-

ting two divisions of infantry at work in each direction. The roads were destroyed for about 12 miles each way. Attempts were made to stop the work, but their heavy force made it of no avail. Ross' brigade arrived at Daleville on the 16th, and skirmished with the enemy on the 17th near Old Marion.

On the evening of the 17th, I received an order from the lieutenant-general to move with my disposable force to join General Forrest, who reported that the enemy's cavalry force (8,000 men) were moving on him.

On the morning of the 18th, the four brigades moved toward Starkville, the point indicated by General Forrest, leaving only Colonel Perrin's Mississippi regiment to cover Demopolis and observe the enemy. The command moved as rapidly as the jaded condition of the horses would admit, and at daylight on the 23d arrived at Line Creek, where General Forrest was on the 22d, and found, much to my surprise and regret, that the enemy had commenced to retreat twenty-four hours previously.

On the 19th, Forrest moved from Starkville through West Point toward Aberdeen, and again retired before the enemy across Sakatonchee Creek. The enemy on reaching West Point heard of my approach on the 21st, and immediately commenced their retreat.

Forrest on the 22d, in the evening, commenced the pursuit, and caught up with their rear guard, inflicting severe punishment on them, capturing six pieces of artillery and many prisoners. My command was much disappointed at the result of this action, having anticipated a fight with their own arm of the service and with equal numbers. I had been led to believe, from General Forrest's reports, that the force of the enemy was superior to our combined commands, and that the difficulty was in avoiding a general engagement till my arrival.

Not having received General Forrest's report, I am not able to explain his move on the 19th to fight the enemy, and again retiring before him without concentrating and giving battle with his entire force. I feel confident, however, that this gallant officer acted with judgment and to the best interests of the service.

On the 24th, I ordered General Jackson, with his own division and Ferguson's brigade, to move toward Canton and harass General Sherman, who was then retiring from Meridian toward Vicksburg. General Jackson encountered the enemy near Sharon, driving in his foraging parties and hastening his march to Vicksburg. His work was well done, capturing about twenty wagons and killing and capturing about 200 of the enemy, the last of whose forces recrossed the Big Black on March 4.

Brigadier-General Ross, with his brigade of Texans, was sent to the Yazoo country by Brigadier-General Jackson, and Richardson's brigade of Tennesseeans (Forrest's cavalry) were sent by my order to Grenada from Starkville on the 24th.

General Ross, about February 28, while going into camp near Benton, was charged by about 80 negro cavalry from Yazoo City. About an equal number of the Texans charged them, and before they got to Yazoo City (10 miles) 75 of the negroes were caught and killed, as they continued to offer resistance and to run.

On March 5, Brigadier-Generals Richardson and Ross co-operating, attacked Yazoo City; drove the enemy from all the redoubts except one, and took possession of the city, capturing many stores and a few prisoners. The enemy having concentrated in the strongest redoubt,

it was not considered prudent to assault it, as it was defended by about 400 infantry and surrounded by a ditch. Generals Ross and Richardson retired from the city about sunset, and the enemy evacuated the place the next day. This was a gallant affair and caused the enemy to withdraw from the Yazoo River.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the officers and men of my command. They were in the saddle almost continually from February 1 to March 4, undergoing great fatigue and fighting a large army of infantry (for Sherman only had a brigade of cavalry with him) with a gallantry and spirit which cannot be too highly commended.

I would especially commend to the favorable notice of the lieutenant-general the good conduct and soldierly qualities of Brig. Gen. W. H. Jackson, commanding a division, to whose assistance and action much of the credit of the recent campaign is due.

Brigadier-Generals Adams and Ross and Ferguson deserve my thanks for their distinguished gallantry on the field and the able management of their commands.

Col. P. B. Starke, commanding brigade, showed skill and gallantry on every occasion, and won my confidence.

For the parts taken by different regiments and for instances of individual gallantry I refer to the inclosed reports. I will, however, mention a few seeming to deserve especial notice.

On February 4, near Bolton Depot, my position was being flanked by a cavalry brigade of the enemy. Seeing the danger, and to give time to meet the attack, Maj. H. W. Bridges, Provisional Army, C. S., was detached with the two escort companies of General Jackson and myself, numbering about 90 men. That gallant officer with his select band attacked the vastly superior force of the enemy with a boldness and daring I have not witnessed before during the war. The advance was checked and many lives saved by the good conduct of that officer and the two companies. I regret to state that in effecting the object for which he was sent he received a mortal wound, and is now lost to his country. A more daring spirit has not fallen during this war, nor one who has been more regretted by his comrades.

Lieutenant Harvey, commanding scouts of Starke's brigade (40 in number), killed and captured 150 of the enemy, and he has established an enviable reputation for gallantry and efficiency.

To the members of my personal staff I am indebted for their gallantry and efficiency. I would particularly mention Maj. William Elliott, assistant adjutant-general, and Lieuts. J. B. McFarland, S. M. Underhill, and W. S. Farish, acting aides.

Maj. G. B. Dyer, acting commissary of subsistence, and A. G. Quaite, quartermaster, performed their respective duties to my satisfaction. Asst. Surg. D. W. Booth, medical department, was constantly with me, and in addition to his regular duties displayed gallantry in transmitting orders under fire frequently.

The loss of the enemy was about 400 prisoners and 300 killed and wounded.

Inclosed are the reports of the general officers of my command and a list of killed and wounded.

I am, colonel, yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

Lieut. Col. T. M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Demopolis, Ala.*

[Inclosure.]

*Report of casualties in Lee's cavalry command in the several engagements with the enemy from February 3 to March 27, 1864.*

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Missing. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Enlisted men. | Officers. | Enlisted men. | Officers. | Enlisted men. | |
| Jackson's division | 1 | 13 | 8 | 56 | ..... | 26 | 104 |
| Ferguson's brigade | ..... | 4 | ..... | 14 | ..... | 20 | 38 |
| Adams' brigade | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 129 |
| Harvey's scouts | ..... | 3 | ..... | 1 | ..... | 2 | 6 |
| Escort company | ..... | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| Total | 1 | 21 | 8 | 72 | ..... | 48 | 279 |

Respectfully submitted.

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General.*

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., *April* 22, 1864.

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No. 66.

*Report of Brig. Gen. William H. Jackson, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Division, of operations against expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Benton, Miss., March* 21, 1864.

MAJOR: In compliance with orders from the major-general commanding, I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command, consisting of three brigades, commanded, respectively, by Brig. Gens. Wirt Adams, L. S. Ross, and Col. P. B. Starke, during the late advance of Sherman's army from Big Black to Meridian and its return to Vicksburg:

The enemy commenced crossing Big Black the afternoon of February 3. Were met by Colonel Wood's regiment, Adams' brigade, near Champion's Hill, the morning of the 4th. At the same time Starke's brigade was resisting one corps of the enemy on the Messinger's Ferry road. The entire force of the enemy was about 30,000 infantry and 1,200 cavalry. Heavy skirmishing was kept up until the enemy reached Jackson on the 5th. Ross' Texas brigade had been left on the Yazoo River to defend that country.

The behavior of officers and men of Adams' and Starke's brigades in resisting the advance was excellent.

On arriving at Jackson, my command moved out 10 miles on the Canton road and remained there until the enemy commenced crossing Pearl River, moving in the direction of Brandon.

On February 7, I moved with Starke's brigade to the rear of enemy near Brandon. Adams' brigade accompanied Major-General Lee on the flank of enemy. There was but little opportunity to accomplish much in rear, except to skirmish heavily with rear guard, pick up stragglers, &c. The enemy moved in good order, well closed up, with wagon train of each brigade in rear of their respective brigades.

At Decatur Wood's and Dumonteil's regiments, Adams' brigade, made a dash on a wagon train and succeeded in killing a number of men and mules, but were compelled to abandon the wagons captured, as enemy had force of infantry in front and rear of train. The command fought the enemy at Meridian, where the brigade of General Ross joined my command from the Yazoo country, which it had well protected, having fought three times their number and repulsed enemy on land, the men using their six-shooters, on foot, at the distance of 25 paces. At the same time the section of King's (Missouri) battery, commanded by Lieutenant Moore, drove back the gunboats.

All praise is due the fighting Texans and King's battery and their gallant leader, General Ross, for their noble defense of the Yazoo country.

At Meridian Adams' brigade was assigned temporarily to Ferguson's division.

On the 16th, I moved with two brigades toward Columbus, Miss., to re-enforce General Forrest, and arrived at Starkville on the 23d. The raiding party from the north, under General Smith, retired the day before upon hearing of the approach of Major-General Lee's command.

On the 24th, in compliance with orders, I moved my division in pursuit of Sherman's army, on way to Canton. I detached Ross' brigade at Kosciusko to proceed to and protect the Mississippi Central Railroad and Yazoo country.

February 27, we reached Sharon, Miss., where Starke's brigade encountered the enemy and fought them in gallant style, capturing a number of horses, mules, and wagons. The enemy were scattered in parties of 30 and 40, foraging and pillaging through the country. I therefore adopted the plan of detaching regiments to operate against them. This succeeded admirably, Colonel Pinson, with his regiment (First Mississippi), being very successful—captured a number of enemy, killed and wounded many, and brought off nine wagons and teams.

The officers and men of Croft's and King's batteries deserve great praise for their promptness in the execution of orders and gallant behavior in presence of the enemy.

The enemy remained about Canton three days, my command skirmishing with them daily, killing and capturing many, striking principally at their foraging parties, my object being to confine the enemy as far as possible to their lines and prevent in a great measure their destruction of the country. In this I was successful.

On the 28th, having previously assumed command of Ferguson's division, consisting of his own brigade, commanded by Colonel Earle, and Adams' brigade, I made the following disposition of the command, viz: Adams' brigade on the left flank of enemy, Starke's on the right, and Ferguson's in rear. In this manner they pursued the enemy to within a short distance of Big Black, capturing 15 wagons and teams and 150 prisoners; killed and wounded numbers; also captured 50 cavalry horses and equipments, notwithstanding the enemy was aware of our presence and moved in fine order with no straggling. The effect was to confine them closely to the road on which they were moving.

I beg leave to call the attention of Major-General Lee to the part performed by Lieutenant Harvey and his gallant band of 40 scouts. He was everywhere doing good service; killed and captured of the enemy four times his own number. His daring, coolness, and judg-

ment eminently fit him for promotion and much larger command. I commend him to the notice of the major-general commanding.

The loss in my division during the campaign was 225 killed, wounded, and missing; that of the enemy about 400 prisoners and as many killed, with a large number of mules, horses, wagons, arms, and equipments captured. I am informed by my staff officers (just returned from Vicksburg on flag of truce) that Federal officers admit a loss of 3,000 missing. The number of their killed will never be known, as a great many were killed while out from the main body plundering and burning houses.

Troops never behaved more gallantly or soldierly than those of my command during the entire campaign, and I think everything that could possibly have been executed was done by the command of Major-General Lee.

My thanks are due General Ferguson for his gallantry, energy, and prompt compliance with all orders while temporarily under my command.

To my brigade commanders—General Adams, General Ross, and Colonel Starke—my thanks are especially due for efficiency and zealous discharge of every duty and their noble bearing on the field. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the heroic spirits who follow them.

I respectfully refer to the detailed reports of the brigade commanders for the losses, captures, &c. I would call the attention of the major-general commanding especially to that portion of General Ross' report referring to capture of Yazoo City, which I consider a perfect success.

My thanks are also due the members of my staff—Capt. George Moorman, assistant adjutant-general; Capt. Thomas B. Sykes, assistant inspector-general; Maj. W. P. Paul, quartermaster; Maj. A. P. Glover, commissary of subsistence; Maj. J. F. Simmons, paymaster—for gallantry and efficiency on the field.

My aide-de-camp, Lieut. James R. Crump, was killed while gallantly leading my escort company in a successful charge against a party of marauding Yankees near Sharon, Miss., February 27, 1864. He was a brave and noble officer.

Very respectfully,

W. H. JACKSON,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. WILLIAM ELLIOTT,
*Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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No. 67.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Wirt Adams, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Brigade, of operations against expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY BRIGADE,
*March* 12, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to orders from division headquarters, requiring a report of the operations of my brigade during the recent advance of the enemy from Big Black to Meridian, I have the honor to submit the following:

My command having just returned from East Louisiana, whither it repaired under orders of Lieutenant-General Polk, directing me

to threaten Baton Rouge or Manchac, reached by two days' forced marches the vicinity of Raymond on the afternoon of January 28. I was there met by orders from division headquarters to watch closely all the ferries and approaches in the direction of Big Black south of the railroad bridge, in anticipation of the expected advance of the enemy, and, in case he crossed, to advance and oppose him, offering all the resistance and at points as near the river as possible.

On the evening of February 3, at 6 p. m., I received intelligence from my scouts that the enemy was crossing in force at the railroad bridge and advancing toward Bolton. I immediately mounted my command, consisting of 800 men and a rifled section of King's battery, and moved beyond Raymond, on Edwards' Depot road.

Halting until 4 o'clock next morning, I again put my command in motion, marching rapidly toward Bolton, 1 mile beyond which I took position, sending Colonel Wood's regiment forward to reconnoiter and ascertain certainly whether the enemy was moving on the Raymond or Bolton road. Near Champion's Hill Colonel Wood encountered a dismounted cavalry force, which after a brief skirmish was gallantly charged by Captain Muldrow's squadron, killing and wounding a number and capturing 8 prisoners. Colonel Wood reported to me that the enemy's cavalry force was on the Raymond road and consequently moving on my left flank. I at once detached Colonel Dumonteil and instructed him to move his regiment (Fourteenth Confederate) down the road on which I had come to the junction of the two roads and hold the enemy in check, reporting to me his numbers, movements, &c. With this force he soon became engaged, skirmishing briskly for several hours. I also sent Major Stockdale directly across a field to the same road to take the enemy in flank, but he encountered an infantry and artillery force, from which he was compelled to retire, bringing off several prisoners. The main infantry column of the enemy soon afterward advanced upon the Bolton road, deploying a strong line of skirmishers and using one piece of artillery. He was held in check for several hours at this point by Wood's regiment and Stockdale's battalion, dismounted. Nothing could surpass the unflinching courage and steadiness of these commands, eliciting at the time the commendation of the major-general commanding.

About 3 p. m. the greatly superior force of the enemy having failed to dislodge them, a brigade of infantry, marching in column, was pushed across the creek on my extreme left and moved rapidly toward some buildings which crowned an eminence near my left. At the same time he advanced in line of battle directly against my front. The position being no longer tenable, I was ordered to withdraw my command across Baker's Creek bridge, half a mile in my rear, and send two squadrons of Colonel Wood's regiment to check the enemy's advance on my left.

Leaving Major Akin, Ninth Tennessee Battalion, to cover the withdrawal of the command across the bridge, I removed the remainder as promptly as practicable. Major Bridges, with two escort companies, supported by Captain Muldrow's squadron, of Wood's regiment, soon became warmly engaged with the enemy on the left, driving him from the building on the hill; but strong re-enforcements coming up he was obliged to relinquish them soon afterward. At this point fell Major Bridges, Lieutenant Wilson, and 8 men. I next took position on the Bolton and Clinton road, 1 mile from that

just relinquished. The enemy advanced in four lines of battle across the field I had just left, but did not advance beyond Baker's Creek that evening. Throwing out a strong picket and numerous scouts on my front and flanks, I withdrew my command 1 mile to Mr. Thomas' plantation, where I fed my horses and encamped for the night.

Before daylight on the morning of February 5, I resumed my position, directing Captain King to train his rifled pieces on the bridge over Baker's Creek, 800 yards in my front, and posted Colonel Griffith's [Eleventh] Arkansas Regiment on the right and Major Stockdale's battalion on the left, both dismounted, as supports for the artillery. I held Colonels Wood and Dumonteil in reserve, the former dismounted and forming a second line; the latter mounted and in column in the road.

At 7 a. m. the enemy advanced in column across the bridge in my front, when I directed Captain King to open fire with his two rifled pieces, which did not, however, check the enemy. He pressed steadily forward, deploying to the right and left in the open field. A rapid artillery fire was maintained for some time, and when within range Colonel Griffith and Major Stockdale engaged his whole line, offering the most determined and stubborn resistance and maintaining their position to the last moment, Colonel Griffith and Major Stockdale, as usual, distinguishing themselves by their gallant and fearless bearing. After offering all the resistance possible to the largely superior force of the enemy, I withdrew Colonel Griffith's and Major Stockdale's commands, ordering Colonel Wood to cover the movement. Colonel Wood was relieved by Colonel Dumonteil and Major Akin successively as the command retired in perfect order along the Clinton road. When near Clinton I was ordered by the major-general commanding to hold the enemy in check until Colonel Starke's brigade, coming in on the Queen's Hill road, could pass through the town. After the passage of this command I moved through Clinton, taking the Jackson road beyond. Two miles east of Clinton I again took position on the eastern limit of an extended, open field, and was joined by a section of Croft's and a section of Waties' (South Carolina) battery. The enemy soon showed himself in my front, but advanced cautiously. His line of skirmishers was promptly driven back by the artillery, the practice of which was excellent.

After the lapse of two hours and a careful reconnaissance he moved an infantry column out of view by a road 1 mile to my right and falling into the Jackson road 2 miles in my rear. Advancing a 6-gun battery at the same time with a strong infantry support to a commanding elevation on my front and left and two 20-pounder Parrotts in my front, he opened a rapid and vigorous fire of artillery, pushing forward at the same time a strong line of skirmishers under cover of a wood from the column moving past my right. As the enemy showed no inclination to advance in my front, and my artillery was seriously endangered by the column turning my position, I ordered the artillery and supports to withdraw, following with the remainder of the command. In passing the point where the road on my right entered the Jackson road, the enemy poured a severe volley into Major Stockdale's battalion, acting as rear guard. Colonel Wood's regiment was immediately moved back to his support, but the enemy was so posted as to prevent any effective movement against him.

I then moved my command on the Jackson road and again took position 3½ miles west of the city, with a broad, open field in my front. Against this the enemy did not advance, but throwing forward an infantry and cavalry force on a road 1 mile to the left, pushed immediately for Jackson. After an irregular artillery fire at scattering parties of the enemy, I was ordered to withdraw by a lateral road toward the Canton road, the enemy having gained, near night-fall, the road between me and Jackson. This was done without loss.

In these various positions taken between Champion's Hill and Jackson, and the severe checks given the enemy, I cannot commend too highly the alacrity, courage, and steadiness of my officers and men. They could not have acquitted themselves better.

On the march from Pearl River to Meridian but one opportunity was offered of striking the enemy. This was at Decatur, and was discovered by a bold reconnaissance in person of the major-general commanding. The enemy's wagon train halting in the suburbs of the town, I directed Colonel Wood to make a dash at it with two squadrons, which was executed in gallant style, killing and wounding a number of the enemy and killing the teams of a large number of wagons. A heavy infantry force front and rear of the train precluded all hopes of bringing them off.

In these various affairs from Champion's Hill to Decatur I sustained a loss of 129 killed, wounded, and missing, and 143 horses.

Marching from Alamutche to Starkville and thence to Canton, I was ordered by General Jackson to pass that place, then occupied by the enemy, and operate upon his left flank in his march toward Vicksburg. This was done on the 29th ultimo and 1st and 2d instant, resulting in killing and capturing about 60 of the enemy, and the capture of 33 horses, 2 wagons and teams, and a number of small-arms.

In these affairs Major Stockdale, Captain Muldrow, and Captain Yerger were the most conspicuous and gallant participants.

I have to lament the loss of Captain Magruder, of the Fourth Mississippi, who fell seriously, if not mortally, wounded while leading a charge near Canton.

I am indebted to Capts. F. W. Keyes and A. T. Bowie, and Lieut. George Scott, of my staff, and Lieut. George Yerger, who volunteered his services, for efficient and valuable assistance.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WIRT ADAMS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Capt. GEORGE MOORMAN,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Jackson's Cavalry Division.*

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No. 68.

*Report of Col. Peter B. Starke, Twenty-eighth Mississippi Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Brigade, of operations against expedition to Meridian.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., JACKSON'S CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Near Livingston, Miss., March* 13, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that at 5 a. m. on the 4th ultimo, while near Brownsville, Miss., I received an order from Gen-

eral Jackson directing me to move my brigade to Reynolds' Ponds, on the road leading from Queen's Hill to Clinton, and to be there by daylight. As soon as the order reached me I moved my command and took position at the ponds a little after sunrise. A short time afterward I was notified by the pickets at Queen's Hill that the enemy were approaching in force. I threw forward the First Mississippi Regiment and one piece of artillery, under command of Colonel Pinson, of First Mississippi Regiment, to Col. Joseph E. Davis' place, 1 mile in advance of my position, to force the enemy to develop his strength as far as practicable. A short time after they had taken position the pickets were driven in, and about 10 o'clock they became hotly engaged with him, and after a spirited resistance against his infantry, artillery, and cavalry, deployed in line of battle, they were forced to fall back in rear of position taken in the morning, which was held by the Twenty-eighth Mississippi Regiment (under Major McBee), Ballentine's regiment (under Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell), and Croft's battery, until the enemy [moved] against them in line of battle 10 to 1 in number across an open field and their skirmishers forced the withdrawal of the battery and of the Twenty-eighth, which was dismounted, and were being flanked on both sides. I ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell with his regiment (mounted) to hold the position until those troops were withdrawn and had taken position in the rear.

In the mean time they were exposed to a heavy fire from the artillery and infantry and a rapid advance of the enemy's whole line. Night coming on, I withdrew the command to the ponds near the Wells place and bivouacked for the night, the enemy having halted at Reynolds' Ponds.

He commenced his advance at daylight the next morning and attacked my pickets. I ordered forward Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell with his regiment to re-enforce them, who became hotly engaged upon arriving on the ground, and were forced back to the position which I was occupying at Wells' with the other two regiments and battery. The enemy with a heavy force advanced rapidly in line of battle upon this position and a brisk engagement took place.

At this time General Jackson came on the field from the Bolton Depot and Clinton road, running parallel with the one I was on, where General Adams with his brigade had been resisting the approach of the other army corps of the enemy, and directed in person the firing of my artillery. The enemy here had pushed on their column on the Bolton and Clinton road until they came opposite my position, the roads here converging closely together, and opened a cross-fire on me from that road. While they were playing on my position with their artillery from the front they were still advancing with the same force I had been contending with on the evening before with their center, and deploying their wings forward on the right and left of my position.

At this moment I was ordered by General Jackson to withdraw my command 2 miles east of Clinton, on the Jackson road, and take position there, ordering at the same time my artillery to Clinton. By the time I had taken this position the columns of the enemy's forces had united at Clinton, where they became engaged with General Adams' brigade. I was then ordered by General Jackson to move my command nearer to Clinton, which was done, and held the position until General Adams' command retired and took position at the Tombstone, about 1½ miles in my rear, when I was ordered by

General Jackson to withdraw my command and take position near the breast-works west of Jackson. Apprehending that the enemy might make a flank movement on the road leading from Clinton via Mississippi Springs to Jackson, I sent out some scouts to ascertain if such was the case. They not reporting, I sent out a company from the Twenty-eighth, under Captain Ratliff, who reported immediately that they were advancing on that road in force with infantry, cavalry, and artillery, and were then nearer Jackson, the point we were falling back to, than the position held by our troops. I immediately sent a staff officer to inform General Jackson of the fact, and that I would withdraw my brigade and try to get to Jackson before the enemy and intercept him there. He meeting up with General Lee, delivered the message to him. I withdrew the brigade by regiments—my battery not having been ordered back to me at this time—in their regular order to Jackson, when I received an order from General Lee to move my column out on the road leading from Jackson to Canton. Here the roads and streets were much obstructed by large numbers of stragglers and hangers-on of the army in their flight. I moved my column on to reach the bridge where the road leading from Clinton intersects the Canton and Jackson road, supposing the enemy might move in that direction from Clinton, as they had troops enough to make any move they chose, and intercept the passage of our trains across the bridge.

On reaching Hanging Moss Creek, 4 miles north of Jackson, I came up with General Lee's quartermaster, in charge of all the trains. Halted my command, took position, and at this time was joined by General Lee, who informed me that General Ferguson was guarding with his brigade the road leading from Clinton to the bridge, when I bivouacked at this point for the night and remained three days, until it was discovered that the enemy were crossing Pearl River at Jackson, in the direction of Meridian. After crossing Pearl River I was under the immediate command of General Jackson, and was marching in the rear or flank of the enemy for several days, and became again engaged with him near Meridian on the 14th ultimo. The First Mississippi was placed in line on the road leading from Meridian to Demopolis, and a mounted squadron from the Twenty-eighth Mississippi Regiment on right of road near hospital, and skirmished briskly with them at that point, when they fell back to a position in the rear of the Twenty-eighth Mississippi Regiment, which was formed in line dismounted. This regiment then engaged them and fell back in rear of Ballentine's regiment, which was formed in line mounted, the enemy in the mean time keeping up a brisk fire from his artillery and infantry. I then withdrew my brigade and formed it in line on the west side of the railroad, their right resting on it, which position I held until the enemy had advanced in force, when I withdrew my command on the road leading from Meridian to Demopolis, and skirmished with him there. When compelled to fall back, did so on the road leading from Meridian toward Lauderdale Springs, and bivouacked for the night at ———. My artillery was not present this day, having been ordered back toward Enterprise by General Jackson, they not being able to keep up with the column, which was moving rapidly toward Meridian, in order to reach that point before the enemy.

I remained in the vicinity of Meridian for three days, and then proceeded to Lauderdale Springs via Alamutche, moving from that point to Starkville via Macon to meet the column advancing down

the Mobile and Ohio Railroad from Tennessee, under command of Generals Smith and Grierson. Upon arrival at Starkville it was found that they had been driven back by General Forrest.

I was then ordered by General Jackson to move my brigade to the vicinity of Sharon and Canton via Kosciusko, which I did, arriving at Sharon on 27th ultimo. I saw no more of the enemy until my arrival there, and as their column was marching on the road leading from Ratliff's Ferry to Canton (which passes within a short distance of this place), my advance guard soon became engaged with him. I sent forward Ballentine's regiment, who commenced skirmishing with him, but a superior force coming up soon compelled it to fall back, which it did in good order, and I left a squadron of the First Mississippi Regiment on the edge of town to cover its retreat, and fell back to a good position about 1 mile to the rear, where I had placed my artillery (a section of King's battery), and there formed a line of battle. This position I held until dark, when I fell back 5 miles for water and forage.

At an early hour next morning, I again marched to Sharon, and with Ballentine's regiment and the artillery I took the direct road to Canton, sending Colonel Pinson with the First Mississippi Regiment off on my right, and Major McBee, with the Twenty-eighth Mississippi Regiment on my left, with instructions that when I met and engaged the enemy they should close in on the flanks. About 2 miles from Sharon I met the enemy and skirmished with him for some hours, but hearing nothing from the other two regiments, and night coming on, I fell back to Sharon, when I learned that Major McBee had met with a column of the enemy that occupied his whole attention and prevented him from joining me. Colonel Pinson likewise met a large foraging party and engaged them, and after a spirited contest succeeded in routing them and driving them from their wagons, of which he captured 9, with their teams (60 mules), killing and wounding some, and taking 15 prisoners.

I again fell back to my old camp, and on the following morning attacked the enemy at the same place as on the previous day, sending Major McBee off on my right to attack his flank if an opportunity offered. This, however, was impossible from the nature of the ground and the position of the enemy, who now brought up a large force of infantry and artillery, and I was again compelled to fall back before a greatly superior force. The next day being extremely cold and rainy, I could do nothing except send out scouting parties to watch the movements of the enemy.

On the following day, being March 2, I ascertained that the enemy were leaving Canton and I pursued them as rapidly as my jaded horses would permit of my doing. General Ferguson being in their immediate rear, I took the upper Vernon road from Canton, and kept on their flank without coming in contact with them until I came within 4 miles of Brownsville. Here I determined to attack their train, and disposed my forces accordingly. This was at a point where the road that I was traveling and the one taken by the enemy came within a mile of each other. I sent Major McBee with the Twenty-eighth Mississippi Regiment to charge the train as soon as he saw a favorable opportunity, and afterward ordered Colonel Pinson with the First Mississippi Regiment to form in his rear and be ready to support him or cover his retreat, as the necessity of the case might determine, at the same time sending Colonel Ballentine with his regiment toward Brownsville on the road that I had been

marching on to strike them on the flank. Before, however, Major McBee concluded to attack the train the enemy's rear guard (consisting of seven regiments of infantry and three regiments of cavalry) came up and formed a line of battle and commenced skirmishing with him; and this force being greatly superior to my whole command and night coming on, I fell back a few miles for water and forage, and early the next day the rear guard of the enemy's column crossed Big Black, and I then fell back to this place in obedience to orders.

My whole loss during the different engagements from February 4 to March 4 was as follows, viz: Killed, wounded, and missing, 49.

I captured and killed 128 Federal officers and men.

Inclosed you will find Lieutenant Harvey's (commanding my scouts) report of operations during the raid.

There were many instances of personal gallantry in the different skirmishes, but the behavior of both officers and men was marked by such courage and determination in holding every position assigned them against overwhelming numbers that I will make no discrimination in this report.

Lieutenant Harvey's report shows that he brought to bear his usual undaunted courage, extraordinary energy, and judgment.

I am, captain, very respectfully,

P. B. STARKE,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. GEORGE MOORMAN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 69.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Samuel W. Ferguson, C. S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations against expedition to Meridian.*

HEADQUARTERS BRIGADE,
*Seven Miles East of Decatur, February* 12, 1864—1.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I had a skirmish with the enemy at this point and held him here in check a short time. He flanked my position and I have fallen back 2 miles to another. The force advancing is a heavy infantry column; few cavalry. I will attend to the road you speak of in your dispatch just received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. Gen. W. W. LORING.
(Forwarded by Loring to Polk.)

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PACHUTA CREEK,
*February* 12, 1864—4.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of this afternoon (2 p. m.). The enemy has driven me back to this place by flanking every position I took. From the confidence with which he advances I judge there is a large force of infantry moving in this direction, though I have as yet only seen about 600 cavalry. The infantry has been moving along continuously, and skirmished with two squadrons of the Second Alabama Cavalry.

The Yankee cavalry charged these squadrons twice, but were handsomely repulsed. I am unacquainted with the country between this place and Meridian, and hence cannot determine whether I shall require any more guns than the ones you will send me. I leave this matter to your better judgment. Is there any cavalry guarding the road to Enterprise? Let me know. The road turns off at this place and goes by Chunky's Station. Where is General Lee?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. Gen. W. W. LORING.

—

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY BRIGADE,
*Calhoun Station, March* 31, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the cavalry under my command from January 28 to the present time:

On January 26, in obedience to telegraphic orders received late at night, the Second Tennessee Battalion, my brigade, was ordered to report to Major-General Forrest. The Twelfth Battalion Mississippi Cavalry, then on a scout to the line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, was recalled, and the commanding officer directed to join me at Jackson by the most direct route. Owens' battery was ordered from Aberdeen to Egypt Station, at which point its guns and baggage and the baggage of the balance of the brigade were shipped to Jackson in charge of the dismounted men and the sick.

On January 28, having relieved myself of every incumbrance, I broke camp and marched with my command for Jackson, but on reaching Canton (February 3), in obedience to telegraphic orders there received, I moved rapidly to Clinton to meet the advancing columns of the enemy, sending artillery horses and horses of men who came by cars direct to Jackson.

On the morning after I reached Clinton (February 5), with a command very much reduced in numbers, the enemy approached that place, and I received orders to fall back so as to cover the roads to Canton and Madison Station, which I at once obeyed. I remained in line of battle covering these roads in sight of the enemy until near sunset, when I withdrew my command some 8 miles and went into camp for the night.

On the following morning, I marched to Madison Station, where I remained during that and the following days. From this point that portion of Miller's regiment in camp was sent on a reconnaissance to Jackson, which duty was promptly and efficiently accomplished. This command did not rejoin me until February 14.

At daylight on the 8th ultimo, I marched for Morton, crossing Pearl River at Smith's Ferry, and reached that point with the advance of my column by sunrise the next day. The enemy was, however, ahead of me, and skirmishing at once began and was continued until the volleys of musketry and the presence of infantry in some force satisfied me that it was impossible to get between him and General Polk's rear. Accordingly I withdrew my command, leaving a squadron on the Morton road to cover the movement, and proceeded by the most direct road to Hillsborough. At this point I found General Polk, and was directed to ascertain, first, whether or not the enemy was advancing in force on Hillsborough from nearest rail-

road station, and afterward to push on with my command so as to reach Newton Station before the enemy, and cover the embarkation of General French's division on the cars. Having ascertained that the enemy was not advancing that day on Hillsborough but had fallen back some little distance, I left Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, temporarily under my command, at Hillsborough to cover General Loring's rear, and made a forced march for Newton Station, which point I reached early on the following morning (February 10), and in the vicinity of which I remained during that day and until the following afternoon, when, by General Lee's order, I struck across the country to get between General Loring's rear and the enemy's advance, then near Decatur. This I accomplished by a tiresome and difficult night march over roads little traveled and covered up with pine straw, and the next morning (February 12) met the enemy at Chunky River.

From this time until I left vicinity of Old Marion, on the afternoon of February 18, my command was almost continually engaged with the enemy, the skirmishing at times being kept up until after dark.

On the morning of February 20, I left Alamutche to re-enforce General Forrest. On reaching Macon, General Adams' brigade was placed temporarily under my command, thus giving me a divison, with which by forced marches I reached Starkville on February 22.

On February 24, in obedience to orders from General Lee, I moved my command south to attack General Sherman's retreating column in flank on the east of Pearl River. From information received at Louisville I changed my plan of operations, and having crossed the Yokahockany at La Flore's Ferry, soon encountered the foraging parties of the enemy, which were at once driven in, with a loss to them of 7 killed and 38 captured; to me of 1 officer and 1 man wounded.

On the day following, General Adams' brigade was sent off to operate on the left flank of the enemy and south and west of Canton, and acting under General Jackson's orders, I pushed on directly in the enemy's rear and skirmished with him until he passed beyond Livingston on March 3. The next day I marched my exhausted command to Madison Station and went into camp.

I have thus succinctly given a report of operations extending over a distance of nearly 400 miles and under difficulties that severely taxed the fortitude and patriotism of my men. At all times prompt to respond to every order, they boldly engaged the advance of a large and confident army and unflinchingly held their position until ordered off the field. I regret to say I lost some men by desertion on the route, but with a well-organized court this evil can be corrected in the future.

To the officers and men of my command who remained with me, and to the officers of my staff, my thanks are due for the zeal and ardor displayed in the performance of their several duties.

I append a list of casualties.*

I have the honor, major, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. WILLIAM ELLIOTT,
*Asst. Adjt. and Insp. Gen., Canton, Miss.*

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* Not found. But see Lee's statement, p. 369.

No. 70.

*Report of Lieut. Addison Harvey, commanding Scouts, of operations against expedition to Meridian.*

CAMP, NEAR LEXINGTON,
*March* 22, 1864.

COLONEL: In compliance with the order just received, I have the honor to submit the following report of the action of my scouts during the recent raid made by the enemy to Meridian:

In anticipation of the raid I had posted reliable men on the roads leading from the different crossings on the Big Black River, with instructions to report the first advance of the enemy, watch his movements, and particularly to ascertain his numbers and the order of his march. This was executed with promptness. I held in hand the remainder of my command, numbering about 20 men, and when the enemy advanced upon the Bolton road on the morning of February 4, I entered in a charge with Major Stockdale's battalion, in General Wirt Adams' brigade, in which 5 Federals were captured and 11 killed and wounded, as subsequently ascertained from prisoners. I then crossed to the Brownsville and Clinton road with my command on the evening of the same day, participating in an engagement with Colonel Starke's brigade at Reynolds' field.

On the night of the 4th, I was sent in the direction of Brownsville, to watch the road leading from the ferries north of Messinger's. Having ascertained that none of the enemy's forces were moving on those roads, I marched to Edwards' Depot, in his rear, to get a more accurate knowledge of his numbers and his order of march, and when the desired information was gained I dispatched to headquarters a full report of the same.

I then moved in haste and gained the flank of the enemy while he was crossing Pearl River. My purpose thenceforward was to harass him on the march as much as possible by attacking his foraging parties and pickets, and firing into the main column whenever a favorable opportunity was offered. When I reached Marion, I was ordered by General Lee to go to Enterprise and report to him every movement made by the enemy south of Meridian. Being by this means separated from the main command, I was not apprised that the whole cavalry force had been ordered to North Mississippi, and consequently when the enemy abandoned his position at Meridian, I returned along his flank, and keeping nearly in sight of his column, killed and captured his foragers and detached parties until he reached Canton. Rejoining the brigade at that point, I went in advance and reported the movements of the enemy until he recrossed the Big Black River.

I had with me during this raid about 23 men, and we killed and captured 1 first lieutenant and 109 men. Others of my scouts not with me, numbering about 15 men, captured and killed about 20 Federals.

My own loss was as follows: Private James Renfrow, Wood's regiment, Company B, killed; Private John Graham, Starke's regiment, Company G, killed; Corpl. Thomas Field, Company M, Wood's regiment, killed; Private Ruel M. Stancill, Starke's regiment, Company B, wounded; Private Tindale, Ballentine's regiment, wounded and captured; Private Pereau, Wood's regiment, Company L, captured. I had 18 horses shot during the raid, most of which died. We captured 2 wagons and 47 horses and mules.

I cannot speak in too much praise of the promptness and gallantry shown by all my scouts in every affair in which they were engaged. So uniformly well did they all behave as to elicit my admiration, and so many were the feats of personal prowess that came under my own observation that I was constrained to believe if the whole army were composed of such men we would be invincible.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. HARVEY,
*Lieutenant, Commanding Scouts.*

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No. 71.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Robert V. Richardson, C. S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations on the Yazoo River.*

HEADQUARTERS WEST TENNESSEE BRIGADE,
*Benton, Miss., March 7*, 1864.

MAJOR: On February 23 I received an order from Maj. Gen. S. D. Lee, commanding cavalry west of Alabama, to move my brigade to Grenada for the protection of the public property at that point and to guard against raids from Yazoo City.

I started from Tampico on the morning of the 24th, and hearing that evening that the enemy was raiding unrestricted over the country between the Yazoo River and the Mississippi Central Railroad from Greenwood to Lexington, I moved rapidly to surprise and chastise him. I reached Elliott's Station on the evening of the 25th, and preparing three days' rations—leaving my train except my ambulances, taking only my effective men and horses, then numbering 600, and the rifle section of Thrall's battery—I started at noon on February 26 to Carrollton, hoping that by moving all night I would be able to pass between a party of negroes led by white officers, then raiding about Black Hawk, and their gun-boats and transports at Sidon, and cutting them off from their boats, would be able to capture and destroy them. I marched all night, and next morning learned that these negroes had returned to their boats. I moved on to Sidon, on the east bank of the Yazoo River, and finding that the enemy had gone down the river in his boats, I sent scouts to Tchula to find the locality, if in that neighborhood. My scouts reported that eleven transports and three gun-boats had proceeded down the river to Vicksburg, and that one transport and two gun-boats were reported west of Honey Island loading with cotton. My information, derived from citizens and our soldiers captured and who had escaped, showed pretty conclusively that this armada was composed of twelve transports and five gun-boats, the Eleventh Illinois Infantry, one regiment of negro cavalry, and one regiment of negro infantry, variously estimated at from 1,000 to 2,000 men. It also appeared that their object was to take cotton, stock, and negroes and corn, and to hold and navigate the Yazoo River for the purpose of drawing from its rich granaries subsistence for the army at Vicksburg.

Feeling that the supplies of the Yazoo Valley were of great value to the country, I deemed it of vast importance to punish the enemy and drive him, if possible, from this river, that we might preserve its rich abundance of army supplies for the use of the Confederate

forces, with which I believed it was designed to hold and occupy this region of country. Accordingly, so soon as I received the information that three boats were west of Honey Island, I moved to Tchula, thence toward the foot of Honey Island; but before I reached this point my scouts returned from a thorough reconnaissance of Honey Island, reporting that all the boats had descended the river to Vicksburg. Believing now that the enemy had returned to Vicksburg, I moved from the Yazoo Bottom to near Lexington, determined to return to Grenada by slow marches, resting my men and horses.

I received now several dispatches from Brig. Gen. L. S. Ross, from the vicinity of Benton, indicating the presence of the enemy at Yazoo City. I moved in that direction, and on the evening of March 4 formed a junction with him at the Ponds, 6 miles east of that city. My effective force was now reduced to 550 men, and that of General Ross was about 1,000 men. I found General Ross well informed as to the position of the enemy, his works of defense, and the topography of Yazoo City and environs. He made full (as I afterward saw to be), true, and accurate explanations, giving me the benefit of his valuable information upon these points. He reported to me as the ranking officer, but on account of his superior information as to the defenses and approaches of and to Yazoo City, I declined to assume the command, making him my equal in rank, both agreeing to consult and co-operate.

At 8 a. m. on March 5, we moved from our camp at the Ponds, determined to reconnoiter the enemy's position and feel of him in force, and, if the opportunity should appear favorable, to capture the city and works.

At 10 a. m. we commenced the attack. Colonel Mabry was ordered to attack on the plank road, Colonel Jones to carry the left central redoubt, Colonel Hawkins to carry the extreme right redoubt. These officers belonged to General Ross' brigade, and these dispositions were made by him. Acting under General Ross' advice, I placed Captain Thrall's section of artillery on a point about 1,000 yards from the right central redoubt and opened upon it. Captain Thrall soon obtained the range, and his shells seemed to burst right over the work. General Ross now moved on the plank road to the left, commanding the left wing. Colonel Hawkins, commanding the First Texas Legion, very soon drove the enemy from the extreme right redoubt, and this gave me a much better position for Thrall's section; also opened one of the main roads into the city, exposed the camp of the Eleventh Illinois Regiment and the north side of the main redoubt, which it now appeared the enemy intended to hold if possible. General Ross had now captured the two redoubts on the left of the main or right central, and had placed his section of artillery (Lieutenant Johnston commanding) in a good position at easy range, and was playing it upon the main central with good effect. This work was the largest and strongest of all the works; had in it one piece of artillery, was flaunting the U. S. flag, and now became the special object of our attention. We now had four pieces throwing shells at this work. One of my pieces, however, soon disabled itself by its recoil.

I received a message from General Ross saying that he had thrown the forces of his wing, to wit, Colonel Mabry's, Colonel Jones', and the Twelfth Tennessee Cavalry (Colonel Neely commanding) around the east and south sides of the fort, and the shells which went over the works fell among our own men.

I now saw that I could complete the investment of the work and storm and take the city. I ordered Major Ross, commanding Sixth Texas, to move up a wooded ravine and attack the north side. I ordered Colonel Hawkins, commanding First Texas Legion, to move on the jagged slope of the bluffs, clear it of the enemy, swing on his left, and extend the arc of a circle formed by Major Ross to the north and west. I ordered Col. Thomas H. Logwood, commanding Fifteenth Tennessee Cavalry, to move through the upper edge of the city, and Maj. Jas. G. Thurmand, commanding Fourteenth Tennessee Cavalry (Colonel Neely's right), to move centrally through the city. These officers and their commands promptly and gallantly executed these orders, and in twenty minutes we had completed the circle around the main redoubt and swept the heights above the city except the main redoubt, and had taken the city by storm, except the tier of buildings fronting the river, under the immediate cover of their two gun-boats, in which a number of the enemy had posted themselves and were firing from the windows of the houses.

In driving the enemy from one of these houses the gallant and accomplished gentleman and soldier, Maj. J. G. Thurmand, fell dead, shot through the head, leading his regiment, the gallant Fourteenth Tennessee Cavalry. He is dead. His deeds place him in the ranks of that honored few whom we delight to recognize as the bravest of the brave.

Two gun-boats now opened their batteries upon us in the city and rained down showers of balls from exploding shrapnels. Captain Thrall now placed in position on one of the streets, in 50 yards of a brick house occupied by the enemy, his piece and opened upon it with terrible effect. I held the city for three hours, destroying quartermaster's stores and cotton, not without, however, a continuous struggle with the enemy's sharpshooters, posted in houses, and his gun-boats, until the latter were silenced. Colonel Logwood, having driven the enemy from the upper part of the city by gallant and impetuous charges, had wheeled his regiment upon its left and closed the circle of investment and commanded the sally-port of the main central redoubt.

About 4 o'clock in the evening, General Ross reported to me in the city the progress made against the central redoubt and the refusal of the enemy to surrender the main redoubt. We concluded that to carry the work by storm would sacrifice too many valuable lives and was not worth the price. Two boats of re-enforcements were approaching the city; our ammunition was nearly exhausted; we had felt the enemy heavily; had damaged him very much; it was nearly night; we determined to withdraw.

We captured mules, horses, clothing, and ammunition, and 17 prisoners.

The loss of my brigade was 37 killed and wounded; of the two brigades, 64.

The enemy's loss, from all I can gather, must have been over 100, though he stated it to the citizens at 243.

The enemy has been compelled to evacuate the city, and it is hoped that he will abandon the idea heretofore entertained of opening the Yazoo River and drawing cotton, negroes, stock, and supplies from its rich valley.

The Fourteenth Tennessee Cavalry was under my immediate observation, and it gives me great pleasure to commend the gallantry of both men and officers.

The Fifteenth Tennessee Cavalry and its gallant and dashing colonel (Logwood) behaved well, not a man or officer straggling from it to the rear. Its flag bore and now bears ten bullet holes through its folds and one through its staff as honorable mementoes of the fierce struggle it passed.

I cannot close this report without mentioning in terms of commendation the promptness to carry my orders and the gallant bearing throughout the entire day of Capt. W. E. Reneau, assistant inspector-general on my staff, and Lieut. V. B. Waddell, picket officer of my brigade. My aide-de-camp, Lieut. J. T. Joyner, and volunteer aide, J. M. Lucas, bore my orders promptly.

It gives me great pleasure to commend the gallantry of Brig. Gen. L. S. Ross and his entire brigade of Texans.

I desire also to commend Captain Thrall and his men and officers for their bravery and good firing on this occasion. The captain was wounded in the city after its capture, standing by his piece, by a sharpshooter of the enemy. Lieut. C. Adams, my ordnance officer, was also wounded in the city.

I have the honor to be,

R. V. RICHARDSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major HOLT,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 72.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Lawrence S. Ross, C. S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations on the Yazoo River.*

HEADQUARTERS TEXAS BRIGADE,
*March* 5, 1864—9 p. m.

DEAR GENERAL: General Richardson joined me yesterday with 500 effective men. Our forces united made 1,300, and as the Yankee force in Yazoo City was only 2,000, we determined this morning to move in and make a reconnaissance, and if possible take the place. My brigade was in front, and stormed and took all the redoubts around the city but one, and invested that completely. General Richardson moved around and occupied the city, driving off the gun-boat, capturing all their stores, much cotton, and many horses and mules, goods, &c. The men at once loaded themselves with plunder and began to hunt the rear. I demanded the immediate and unconditional surrender of their last redoubt, which was occupied by the Eleventh and One hundred and ninth Illinois Infantry and some negro troops.* We squabbled about the terms of the capitulation, as I would not recognize negroes as soldiers or guaranty them nor their officers protection as such; and while negotiations were going on and the time given them to determine was drawing well-nigh to a close two transports came up with re-enforcements, and the negroes who had run down the river in the commencement of the fight returned and pressed our forces so hard that we were compelled to withdraw the force between the redoubt and the city, and they refused to surrender.

* The One hundred and ninth Illinois had been consolidated with the Eleventh. in 1863.

It was then 4 p. m., and night came on before the place could be assaulted with troops in proper style or with well-regulated lines, so we determined to draw off, and are now at our old camps (the Ponds). At one time we had their supplies, cotton, and 30 or more wounded in our possession. General R. burned the cotton, and we have a good many prisoners and much plunder now. The commissary stores could not be burned. The fighting was very desperate. The hardest and hottest part of the engagement was made by the Fourteenth Tennessee, under Major Thurmand, in driving the enemy and the gun-boats from town. Major T. was killed. Lieutenant Garvin, Sixth Texas; Lieutenant Harwell, Third Texas, were wounded.

Our loss in killed and wounded will not exceed 50. Several of the battery were wounded; none killed. I will make a report to-morrow of loss and gain.

The troops are much encouraged by the result of the day's operations. General R. will remain with me to-morrow. I will move back as you direct to Benton and establish courier-line, &c., to Canton. Cannot you come over and see me soon? Can get up some sport for you now any day.

Very respectfully, &c.,

L. S. ROSS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. W. H. JACKSON,
*Commanding Division Cavalry, Canton, Miss.*

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HDQRS. TEXAS BRIG., JACKSON'S CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Benton, Miss., March 7*, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that in consultation with Brigadier-General Richardson, of Forrest's division, who, with his brigade (550 strong, with one section of artillery), arrived at my camp, near Benton, Miss., the evening of the 4th instant, it was decided to make a reconnaissance in force of the enemy at Yazoo City, and having learned his numbers and the strength of his position, to determine then upon the policy of attempting to take the place.

With this view we moved at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 5th instant. General Richardson, not being familiar with the nature of the country immediately around Yazoo City, declined the command of both brigades, whereupon it was agreed that we should co-operate during the day.

At about 9 a. m. my advance drove in the enemy's pickets, and before 11 o'clock we were in possession of all the hills and positions east of the city, which were held by the enemy at the commencement of operations, except a very strong redoubt on the plank (or main Benton) road. This redoubt, immediately in my front, was occupied by the Eleventh and One hundred and ninth Illinois Regiments of infantry (consolidated), and as the enemy seemed disposed to a stubborn resistance, I decided to drive him, if possible, with artillery. Lieutenant Johnston's section was therefore placed in position and commenced a brisk fire at about 700 yards' range.

In the mean time General Richardson—operating on the right along a road that leads from the plank road, 1½ miles east of Yazoo City, into the northeast corner of the town—had posted his artillery

on a hill north of the redoubt held by the enemy. We thus had an enfilading fire at good range on the enemy's position. Many shells from both sides exploded within the redoubt, and must have done much execution. Finding, however, that the enemy would not be driven with artillery, General Richardson pushed forward his column, entered the city, driving everything before him, his men behaving most gallantly, and took position on the plank road between town and the redoubt held by the enemy. We thus had him completely surrounded, our forces being on all sides and not more than 100 yards distant. In this condition we demanded a surrender of the redoubt and the force within it, which the enemy declined. To have taken the place by assault, which the entire command were eager to do, would have cost us the loss of many men—more, we concluded, than the good that would result from the capture of the enemy would justify. We had now undisputed possession of all Yazoo City except two warehouses immediately upon the river bank, in which a few of the enemy were crouching under the protection of their gun-boats. General Richardson had fired a large lot of cotton which the Yankees had collected for transportation down the Yazoo River, and destroyed a large quantity of quartermaster's and commissary stores.

The hospitals of the enemy, with all his wounded (some 30 in number), were in our possession. We had captured 18 prisoners and a large number of mules and horses, and had obtained all the information sought from the first. It was decided, therefore, to withdraw our forces, which was effected quietly and in good order. Seeing General Richardson begin to withdraw from town, the enemy in the redoubt sallied out and attempted to drive the Third and Ninth Texas Regiments from their positions in front, but were quickly and signally repulsed, after which he made no further demonstrations, but suffered us to move back at our leisure.

The casualties in my command during the day were 3 killed and 24 wounded, and in General Richardson's 3 killed and 27 wounded.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. S. ROSS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Capt. GEORGE MOORMAN,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Jackson's Cavalry Division.*

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HDQRS. TEXAS BRIG., JACKSON'S CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Benton, Miss., March* 13, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with your call for a report of the operations of this brigade on the Yazoo River during the recent advance of the enemy under General Sherman, I have the honor to submit the following, to wit:

Immediately upon the return of my command from the Mississippi River (about January 20) I received an order from the division commander to take position near Benton, Miss., and was charged with guarding the country west of Big Black River.

A few days subsequently Colonel Mabry, of the Third Regiment Texas Cavalry, commanding the brigade in my absence, received orders to move to the vicinity of Mechanicsburg, at which place the command arrived on the evening of the 26th. Being informed by

the scouts in front that a large foraging party was moving upon the Ridge road from Vicksburg, Colonel Mabry attempted to intercept it, but the enemy receiving notice of his presence in the neighborhood saved himself by flight.

On the morning of the 28th, my scouts reported gun-boats and transports coming up the Yazoo River. Two boats were already at Satartia, and the smoke of others was plainly visible below. Hoping to surprise the two advance boats, I moved rapidly from Mechanicsburg to Satartia, leaving one regiment at the former place to guard against the advance of any land force from that direction. The movement was entirely successful, and ere the enemy were aware of our presence Lieutenant Moore had his pieces in position and opened fire upon them at 900 yards' distance. One of the boats (a transport) was landed at Dr. Gale's place, on the opposite side of the river, one-fourth of a mile above Satartia, had debarked its troops, and was loading with forage. The gun-boat had halted in the middle of the river, being along, doubtless, merely for the protection of the transports. Our attack was sudden and unexpected—so much so that before the transport could loose herself from the shore and get off she received some twenty shots, many of them passing entirely through her hulk, but without damage to her machinery so far as we could discover. So hurried was her departure that the men on shore had not time to get aboard, and were left to save themselves as best they could. The gun-boat ran off without firing a shot, and both boats being out of reach, I directed some shells to be thrown at a squadron of cavalry which, having been picketing up the river while the boats were loading and hearing our artillery, were now endeavoring to get back. Attempting to run by within range of our guns, a few shells exploded in their midst, unhorsed several and scattered the rest in all directions. The men who were unhorsed were afterward captured by some of my skirmishers (who crossed the river in a dug-out for this purpose), and proved to be negro troops.

Being convinced that the enemy would again advance very soon en route for Yazoo City, I examined the river-banks and selected Liverpool as the most suitable place at which to fight them. At this point the banks are high and the hills extend down to within musket-range of the river, which would enable me to use small-arms and artillery at the same time. The bed of the river is also partially obstructed opposite Liverpool by a sunken steam-boat, to pass which would require the enemy to move very slow and carefully.

On February 2 their boats again appeared (this time eleven in number) with formidable-looking gun-boats (Nos. 3, 5, and 38) in advance. They were evidently anticipating resistance at Liverpool, and therefore passed the entire day in reconnoitering, but kept beyond range of our guns, occasionally throwing shells at our scouts and skirmishers. No effort to pass us was made, nor did any boat get within reach of our artillery until the morning of the 3d. Three gun-boats then moved up to within range. A heavy cannonading at once began and continued without intermission for hours.

In the mean time three regiments of infantry, having landed from the transports below, were advancing with the intention of attempting to dislodge us with small-arms. I had but two regiments with me at the time, having dispatched Colonel Mabry with his regiment (Third Texas) to check a force of the enemy advancing from Mechanicsburg, and sent the First Texas Legion, under Colonel Haw-

kins, over to the left to guard another road upon which the enemy were making some demonstrations. However, I knew the men in whom I trusted and was not doubtful of the issue.

The Sixth and Ninth Regiments Texas Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Wharton and Lieutenant-Colonel Berry, nobly sustained their well-earned reputation for gallantry and unflinching firmness.

The enemy charged and were driven back; rallied, charged the second time, and were again repulsed with six-shooters at 25 paces' distance, and this time so signally and effectually that they could not be checked again until they were safe on board their boats.

Their killed and wounded, with many arms that were thrown away in their flight, were all left in our possession and were collected up after the fight.

The enemy made no further effort to dislodge us, but late in the evening about-faced and moved off down the river. I did not conclude that they had given up the expedition entirely, and was not surprised when at daylight the next morning their boats again appeared in sight. I had, however, exhausted almost all my artillery ammunition and determined to husband the remainder for an emergency. No resistance to the boats passing was therefore attempted, but as the transports went by, with troops and horses entirely exposed, the Ninth Texas Cavalry lined the banks and poured into them several volleys, which must have done much execution.

As soon as they were passed I moved my command direct to Yazoo City, determined to intercept them again at that place and prevent their landing, or expend my last shot in the effort.

Arrived at Yazoo City on the evening of the 4th. The enemy did not appear until about 8 a. m. the following day, when three gunboats turned the bend of the river 3 miles below town. My position had already been chosen and artillery posted. The bank of the river was lined with my sharpshooters, concealed by the rough and broken surface of the ground. When the advance boat (which proved to be the No. 38) had arrived to within a few yards of the landing one of my rifled pieces opened fire, at short range, almost every shot taking effect and some of them passing entirely through the boat into the water beyond. The enemy promptly returned our shots, but in a few moments the No. 38 was disabled and began with great difficulty to drop back down the river. The other boats, halting beyond range of our guns, shelled us for an hour or two and then drew off to their transports, 4 miles below the city. I now made dispositions of my forces for resisting a land attack, suspecting the enemy of an intention to again send out his infantry. Indeed, several regiments had already landed and deployed in line, but showed no desire to come within range of our muskets. Evidently intimidated by the rough handling they received the day before at Liverpool, the whole force re-embarked late in the evening and moved off down the river, closely followed by my scouts, and was reported passing Satartia at 10 o'clock next morning.

I now deemed it prudent to remain in the vicinity of Benton until I could obtain reliable information in regard to the movements of Sherman's forces and of our own cavalry. I had received no dispatches for several days, and the reports that reached me were so uncertain and contradictory that I could not credit them.

Your dispatch directing me to rejoin the rest of the division east of Pearl River reached me at the Ponds, 4 miles west of Benton,

Miss., February 8. I moved at once and traveled as rapidly as my teams would bear. Arrived at Daleville, Miss., about the same time that the advance of the enemy reached Meridian, and decided to communicate from there with Brigadier-General Jackson or Major-General Lee and await their instructions.

In the mean time, not wishing to continue idle, I moved down to Marion Station, and there meeting the enemy, the Third Texas Regiment kept up a sharp skirmish with them throughout the day.

The following day I was ordered toward the northern part of the State to re-enforce General Forrest. Arrived at Starkville, but too late to be of any service there, as the enemy had already been driven back and were now in full retreat. At Starkville, therefore, our route was changed, and in obedience to orders from General Jackson I returned again to Yazoo County.

Arrived at Benton, Miss., on the 28th, and was about encamping my command at the Ponds, 4 miles west of Benton, when a squadron of negro cavalry from Yazoo City came in sight. I immediately ordered detachments of the Sixth and Ninth Regiments, which happened to be the nearest at hand, to charge them. The negroes after the first fire broke in wild disorder, each seeming intent upon nothing but making his escape. Being mounted on mules, however, but few of them got away. The road all the way to Yazoo City was literally strewed with their bodies. The negro troops after this were very timid, and never came out to reconnoiter but that they were easily chased back by a few scouts.

On the evening of March 4, the West Tennessee Brigade, commanded by Brigadier-General Richardson, arrived at my camp. I had been in communication with General Richardson for several days, and at my request he had brought his command down to assist me in an attempt to drive the enemy from Yazoo City. Being the senior officer, I desired him to assume command of both brigades, but this he declined.

At 8 a. m. of the 5th, in accordance with the plans agreed upon the evening before, our combined force moved on Yazoo City, the object being to feel the enemy's position, and having determined his strength to decide then upon the policy of attempting to take the place. The Third Texas Regiment, of my command, being in advance, drove in the enemy's pickets and approached to within 200 yards of a strong redoubt on the plank road, which was held by the Eleventh and One hundred and ninth Illinois Regiments, consolidated. The Ninth Texas, being directed to the left, took position at a fortified hill to the south of this redoubt and about 500 yards distant.

In the mean time General Richardson, with his own and two regiments of my command, had borne to the right, taking a road that leaves the plank road 1½ miles from Yazoo City, leading into the northeast corner of the town, and had occupied another hill to the south of and 600 yards distant from the redoubt on the plank road. The artillery of both brigades being now in position and within easy range of the enemy opened a brisk fire, many shells exploding within the redoubt, and must have done much execution, but failed to drive the enemy from his position. Finding this to be the case, General Richardson pushed forward his column and occupied the town, driving all opposition before him. The enemy in the redoubt were now completely surrounded, and their capture seemed inevitable. I demanded a surrender, and, being refused, we decided to again concen-

trate our artillery upon the redoubt at short range, hoping to drive them out with shell, for to have assaulted the place would have been a sacrifice of more men than it was worth.

We had now undisputed possession of Yazoo City, except a warehouse immediately on the river bank, in which a few of the enemy were crouching under the protection of their gun-boats. General Richardson had fired a large lot of cotton which the Yankees had collected for transportation down the river, and destroyed a large quantity of quartermaster's and commissary stores. The hospitals of the enemy, with all his wounded (some 30 in number), were in our possession, together with 18 prisoners and a large number of horses and mules. We had accomplished all that could be effected by holding the city, and therefore decided to withdraw our forces therefrom, which was effected quietly and without confusion. The enemy in the redoubt seeing this movement in town, and thinking we were retreating, sallied out and attempted to charge the two regiments in their front, but were quickly repulsed. About this time two transports arrived with re-enforcements, upon which it was decided to withdraw all our forces, which we did, retiring to our former encampment near Benton. The following morning the enemy all left Yazoo City, evidently anticipating a renewal of the attack.

My command had acted most gallantly throughout the day, and indeed during the entire campaign on the Yazoo River men and officers displayed true courage. To them their country is indebted for any success that may have attended our efforts.

To Brigadier-General Richardson I am under obligations for his ready and zealous co-operation in the attack on Yazoo City. This truly gallant officer is an honor to the service, and a noble exponent of unflinching fidelity to the South.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. S. ROSS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Capt. GEORGE MOORMAN,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Jackson's Cavalry Division.*

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**FEBRUARY 8, 1864.—Scout near Maryville, Tenn.**

*Report of Maj. Joseph B. Presdee, Second Indiana Cavalry.*

[MARYVILLE, TENN.,]
*February* 8, 1864—9 p. m.

COLONEL: In pursuance to orders, I took charge of a scouting party toward Sevierville.

I scouted on the Knob road as far as the house of Mr. Rogers, about 18 miles from Maryville and on the main Sevierville road, 2 miles beyond the crossing of the Knoxville road, also about 18 miles from Maryville. I also scouted the country between these two roads, but heard nothing of the enemy with the exception of 4 stragglers. There were 26 at Wyland's Mills yesterday, and 100 within 3 miles of Mr. Goddard's (7 miles from Maryville) on Saturday, stealing horses and committing other depredations. These last came in by the Knob road. None of them appear to have come farther on the main road than the Knoxville crossing, however.

About 150 or 200 went on the Knoxville road (I think on Saturday) toward Knoxville, returning at night with 14 or 15 Federal prisoners, said to be a picket-post captured near Knoxville.

Very respectfully,

J. B. PRESDEE,
*Major, Commanding Second Indiana Cavalry.*

Col. O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Comdg. Second Brigade, First Cavalry Division.*

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**FEBRUARY 13, 1864.—Scout near Knoxville, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Lieut. Col. Isaac R. Sherwood, One hundred and eleventh Ohio Infantry.
No. 2.—Sergt. Maj. Gustavus F. Smith, One hundred and eleventh Ohio Infantry.

No. 1.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Isaac R. Sherwood, One hundred and eleventh Ohio Infantry.*

CAMP ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH OHIO INFANTRY,
*February* 14, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report the following:

For several days past I have been sending scouting parties in my front on the Rutledge road. Yesterday a portion of my scouts went out about 7 miles, and within sight of the enemy's camp. I learn from our scouts and citizens that there is a brigade of rebel cavalry in our front. Some citizens say that they are at Blain's Cross-Roads, while others are of opinion that only one regiment is at that point, Fourteenth Kentucky. Our scouts saw quite a camp near Flat Creek yesterday, judging by the fires, say two or three regiments. Our scouts encountered the flag of truce yesterday. Rebel Major [Captain] Simms, of Fourth [Eighth] Kentucky Cavalry, by remarks made to Sergeant-Major Smith of our regiment, understands pretty well the disposition of our forces here at the front. The rebel scouts (numbering 10) were within 2 miles of our lines on the 12th.

I would call the attention of the general to the exposed condition of our line and the great distance we are from support. I send out a scout to-day at 3 p. m., and will try and ascertain their strength and position.

I inclose report of Sergeant-Major Smith.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

I. R. SHERWOOD,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieut. S. H. HUBBELL,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Sergt. Maj. Gustavus F. Smith, One hundred and eleventh Ohio Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS 111TH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
*Near Knoxville, Tenn., February* 14, 1864.

SIR: Allow me to report the following with regard to the scouting party sent out on the morning of the 13th instant:

After leaving camp at 10 a. m. we ascended the hills on the south

side of the Rutledge road, sending 2 reliable scouts up the opposite side of the valley. After advancing about 3 miles, a halt was ordered, and I went out to learn whether the advance had learned any news of importance, supposing that Lieutenant Beery, who was in command, would advance slowly along the crest of the hills as we had been previously doing. I then ordered 2 of the scouts to keep along the foot of the hills and under cover as much as possible until they should discover the enemy, while I took the 2 remaining (there being but 4 in the advance beside myself), and ascending to the crest of the hill searched the valley through which the road to Blain's Cross-Roads from Knoxville passes.

Thus we kept on for about 3 miles, discovering no enemy, but learning from citizens who were reported to me as reliable Union men that they had a force of one brigade at or near Blain's Cross-Roads. They came in on the evening of the 11th; also, that enemy had a force of quite a large number at Flat Creek, one regiment having come in on the evening of the 12th, and on the morning of the 13th another force of two or three regiments came in.

From the position that we then were we could see for some distance up the valley. The smoke of the camps could be easily seen; also we could see a force of cavalry approaching, which proved to be a flag of truce. We immediately went down to the road and received them. From remarks made to me by the adjutant of the Fourth Kentucky Cavalry their lines were not far distant; also from remarks that they made they know the situation of the troops in this vicinity and the exact number of regiments; also, that while the truce party was coming in from the place where we first met them, they stopped for quite a while at the houses of different ones along the road who are notorious rebels.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

G. F. SMITH,
*Sergeant-Major.*

Lieut. W. S. THURSTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**FEBRUARY 14, 1864.—Affair near Larkinsville, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Morgan L. Smith, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.*

LARKINSVILLE, ALA.,
*February* 15, 1864.

SIR: Two privates of Eleventh Texas Cavalry were captured on Sand Mountain about midnight, night before last, by 2 of Captain Latham's men with inclosed dispatch.

I saw General Grant in Nashville. He said he had just sent you authority to muster the Alabamians, and that he was at great loss to get at the designs of the rebels in your front.

The inclosed dispatch came in just before the cars arrived from the west, so I sent the original to General Grant by the conductor, to be handed to the conductor on the other road.

About 10 a. m. yesterday 2 of Captain Latham's company were attacked by about 15 bushrangers about 8 miles northwest from

here, and 1 of them captured. I immediately sent 40 mule-cavalry to arrest 5 of the best "secesh" in the vicinity of the attack, and 5 more from the vicinity of the robbery of a Union man's house, 2 miles farther on. This is probably some or all of the same party that stole General Woods' mules. I am expecting the party back, when I will report and await orders.

I inclose proceedings of military commission in case of Smith and others for orders or suggestions in the case.

Your obedient servant,

M. L. SMITH,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. R. R. TOWNES,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS,
*Rome, Ga., February* 10, 1864.

Lieut. J. W. COLLIER,
*Commanding Scouts:*

DEAR SIR: Your dispatch by courier reached me this morning, and was quite satisfactory. I hope you will push your inquiries to the river without delay so that no doubt may exist of the enemy's position about Larkin's Landing. When that is satisfactorily done, if no enemy is found on this side of the Tennessee, you can report to me with your detachment. Should you find the enemy still on this side of the river, observe his movements narrowly and report them by courier.

I am, lieutenant, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN C. BROWN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

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**FEBRUARY 15, 1864.—Skirmish at Laurel Creek, Wayne County, W. Va.**

*Report of Col. George W. Gallup, Fourteenth Kentucky Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF EASTERN KENTUCKY,
*Louisa, Ky., February* 19, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report to the general commanding that Col. M. J. Ferguson, of the Sixteenth Virginia Cavalry, with a portion of his command was captured on Laurel Creek, in Wayne County, Va., 25 miles from this place.

I started from camp with a detachment from the Fourteenth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry of 275 infantry, and from the Thirty-ninth Kentucky of 150 mounted men, and left camp at 8 p. m. on the 14th instant. Marched 20 miles, and reached the mouth of Laurel at 7 a. m. on the 15th instant. I divided my command at this point, sending a detachment up main Laurel of three companies (B, H, and G) under the command of Capt. John C. Collins, Fourteenth Kentucky Volunteers, and moved the balance up on the ridge to get around the rebel camp. The detachment came upon the enemy, completely surprising them, and in the fight captured Colonel Ferguson, his surgeon, 2 lieutenants, and 38 non-commissioned officers and privates, completely routing and dispersing them.

We killed and left dead on the field 10 rebel soldiers, wounding several and releasing 16 Federal prisoners held by the rebels. Brought off and destroyed 80 Enfield rifles and carbines, and a number of

Colt army pistols, all the camp and garrison equipage, subsistence, forage, and ammunition, and recapturing a large number of horses that had been stolen in West Virginia, and returning to camp on the 16th instant without the loss of a man, having marched 30 miles and back in thirty-two hours, over the hills on a bad road, and most of the time no road at all.

Colonel Ferguson's command is the same that captured General Scammon and staff and burned the steam-boat on the Kanawha.

I had to leave my district to attack Colonel Ferguson, but deemed it my duty to do so.

To the energy and officer-like conduct of Capt. John C. Collins and Capt. William H. Bartrum, Companies G and H, Fourteenth Kentucky Volunteers, I am much indebted for the success of the expedition.

I am, captain, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. GALLUP,
*Colonel Commanding, District of East Tennessee.*

Capt. J. D. BERTOLETTE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*ADDENDA.*

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 54. HDQRS. DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY, *Louisville, Ky., March* 3, 1864.

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V. The general commanding desires to express his thanks to Col. George W. Gallup and the brave officers and men of the Fourteenth and Thirty-ninth Kentucky Volunteers who composed the late expedition into Virginia, which resulted in the defeat of a superior force of the enemy and the capture of 4 officers and 38 men, and a large amount of arms and munitions of war. The good judgment and ability displayed in planning and executing the expedition are highly commendable.

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By command of Brigadier-General Burbridge.

A. C. SEMPLE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**FEBRUARY 15–MARCH 6, 1864.—Expedition from Vicksburg to Grand Gulf, Miss.**

*Report of Col. Charles A. Gilchrist, Twelfth Louisiana Infantry, African descent.*

HDQRS. 12TH LOUISIANA VOLS., AFRICAN DESCENT,
*Vicksburg, Miss., March* 9, 1864.

SIR: In obedience to orders this day received from headquarters Seventeenth Army Corps, I would respectfully make the following report:

Received orders from post headquarters on the 14th of February, 1864, of which the following is a copy:

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 42. HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST AND DEFENSES, *Vicksburg, Miss., February* 14, 1864.

The Twelfth Regiment Louisiana Infantry, African descent, will hold itself in readiness to embark on board steam-boat for Grand Gulf, Miss., reporting on arrival there to Brigadier-General Ellet, commanding Mississippi Marine Brigade.

They will establish a recruiting station at that place, and give such assistance consistent with other duties to the agent of the Treasury Department at that place in collecting abandoned property as he may require. They will be provided with twenty days' rations and 100 rounds of ammunition per man and two tents per company, with all their transportation excepting one wagon. A sufficient guard will be left in charge of the camp at this place. Notice will hereafter be sent of the time of departure.

By order of Brig. Gen. J. McArthur:

W. H. F. RANDALL,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Received an order the same day directing me to embark at 9 o'clock the next day as directed in Special Orders, No. 42.

Embarked on steamer Shenango February 15 for Grand Gulf, Miss., with five regimental and three post teams of the ten that were ordered to go with us; were not all taken for want of room. My command numbered 419 officers and men. Before starting a man by the name of Camp introduced himself to me as the Treasury agent whom I was to assist, presenting an order from General McArthur to permit no one, except Mr. Camp and 4 other persons named in the order, to go on board the transport. Do not remember their names. Two of them had appointments as assistant special Treasury agents. Camp said the boat would return and bring down the seven remaining teams the next day; that we were going to haul corn which he had purchased and was going to purchase for the Government.

On the way down Camp hailed the steamer Thomas E. Tutt, and we learned that General Ellet was at Rodney or thereabouts. At Grand Gulf went aboard the gun-boat Pittsburg; was informed that General Ellet had not been there for a week; was stopping a short distance below. I therefore continued on down the river, and reported to General Ellet at or near Rodney. Returned with him and passed the remainder of the night at Saint Joseph.

On 16th, was ordered by General Ellet to return to Grand Gulf and carry out General McArthur's instructions, reporting from time to time to him (General Ellet). He recommended that I employ my teams, after getting in some forage, in hauling out some cotton belonging to a Mr. Hamilton. I inquired how the Government was to be paid for the use of the teams; that I would be afraid to receive the money myself, as I had read of officers getting into a great deal of trouble handling cotton. He thought my quartermaster might receive it and pay it over to the post quartermaster at Vicksburg, but finally decided that I should make an entry on the back of the license, or permit to buy, that the cotton had been transported at Government expense a certain distance, and then it would be collected where the cotton was sold. I was to impress and use all the teams I needed. Th Treasury agents and cotton speculators continued on up to Vicksburg. Mr. Camp said he would return with the teams, and that we would collect C. S. A. and abandoned cotton. He did not return, and I have not seen him since. We fixed up our camp, and drilled from February 16 to 20.

I had met Mr. Hamilton; he was anxious to get out his cotton; told him what directions General Ellet had given, and I was ready to send out my teams. I could not fix any price for the use of them. I would haul in the cotton; my men would guard the train and the cotton after it was hauled in, but he would have to pay the men for loading, unloading, and rolling it. That it was not the duty of soldiers to handle his cotton, and if they did it he must pay them.

I sent out my teams on the 20th and brought in some bales that were lying around in Hamilton's yard. I had learned that cotton belonging to the C. S. A. and persons in the rebel army could be properly taken possession of by any officer of the U. S. Army for the benefit of the Government; and hearing there was a large pile of C. S. A. cotton south of my camp on Bayou Pierre which was being moved away, I sent out a company to discover it. They found where there had been a large pile of cotton, and traced part of it to a shed on Berry's plantation. Forty-three bales were piled up and 95 bales on the ground; the rest had been taken to Hamilton's yard (76 bales). Of this 214 bales I would estimate that 100 had one head torn out; that 80 others had one new head lately put in. I have no positive evidence, but I believe it was all, or nearly all, the C. S. A. cotton I was looking for.

General Ellet arrived the evening of the 20th. I reported what I had done. He ordered me to go ahead and finish hauling the next day. Said he had found 900 bales of C. S. A. cotton on the Valentine place, and we would go down to Bruinsburg and get it out. A Mr. Hutchinson came and claimed the cotton on the Berry plantation, and I was ordered to get that too. I made some inquiries of the general concerning the time of starting down the river. He said the owners of this cotton were about selling it to Mr. Clemens, and if they did he would send down for the other boat and ten more teams. Said these men were wild in their prices; asked $200 per bale. I informed General Ellet I thought it was C. S. A. cotton, and at any rate I did not believe Hutchinson owned it. He said it made no difference. Hutchinson did not pretend to own all he sold. Clemens came in, said he had bought the lot, and the general then told him to take the tug and go down for the other boat and the wagons. Clemens asked for an order for the tug to take him down to the other boat. The general replied: "The captain has instructions to obey your orders." Clemens then asked for an order for the boat to come up, and the general replied that he did not need any. We had pressed three ox-teams into service. We got, I believe, 120 bales from Hamilton's house, the ends of which had not been changed.

On the 22d, I was ordered out with the ten additional teams, called post teams; went to the Tinsley plantation, about 10 miles; got 81 bales. I heard of a lot of 40 bales, C. S. A., near, and went with one company to find it, but a detachment of Captain Sherman's company, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, were getting it across to the north side of Big Black; learned that they had found 45 bales of it.

On 23d, sent out the whole train again about 8 miles to get cotton claimed by Hutchinson, 91 bales; a part of it, say 50 bales, was stolen from the C. S. A. or some individual, as a part of one head of each bale was cut out. I informed General Ellet that the cotton had been tampered with; that I believed it to be C. S. A. or abandoned cotton. The general said he would look into the matter, but he could not believe there was anything wrong. Captain Hoel, of the gun-boat Pittsburg, who was present, said he believed it was C. S. A.; but early in the morning the cotton was all aboard the steamer Welcome bound for New Orleans, in all, I think, 516 bales. General Ellet told me he had $1,000 to pay to post quartermaster at Vicksburg for use of post teams. I think Clemens, of the Autocrat, bought all the cotton, but a Mr. Grant came forward and claimed some. Don't

know how it was settled. General Ellet gave the boat a clearance, or something of that nature.

I was ordered with my command aboard the Autocrat and John Raines, on the 24th, but objected to taking my men aboard on account of small-pox, quite prevalent on the boats. The steamer Welcome was then detained for us until my transportation was aboard the marine boats, when we dropped down to Bruinsburg.

Messrs. Hamilton and Hutchinson rather objected to paying the men anything; said it was Clemens' business. Clemens said he would pay what General Ellet should order. I told the general that the men had been informed by me that they would get extra pay, and were expecting $1,000 or $1,200. General Ellet ordered his assistant adjutant-general to pay me $708, which I receipted for and turned over to the regimental treasurer the same day. I informed General Ellet, Mr. Clemens, and the rest of the cotton speculators present that my men should not soil and wear out their clothes at that rate. If they did extra work they should be paid for it, and we were not called on to handle any more private cotton. It was all called C. S. A. and abandoned.

I received the following order after arriving at Bruinsburg the same day:

HEADQUARTERS MISSISSIPPI MARINE BRIGADE,
*Flag-ship Autocrat, Bruinsburg, Miss., February* 24, 1864.

COLONEL: You will detail one company and four of your poorest teams for the purpose of hauling forage to-morrow.

You will proceed with the remaining teams and six companies to the Valentine place and bring in Confederate cotton, according to verbal instructions. Your men will be supplied with two days' rations, and will move off by sunrise to-morrow morning.

By order of Brig. Gen. A. W. Ellet:

P. F. HOWELL,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

February 25, went out to the Valentine place, 14 miles; found about 65 bales of C. S. A. cotton had been rolled out of a shed down into a deep gulch. The marines had got out 21 bales, I believe, before we got there; 16 bales remained whole, which I had taken out; the balance, the bagging had been taken off. It was all done by order of Mrs. Valentine. She said to save her buildings and corn, as the cotton was ordered to be burned. Went to another shed; found about 131 bales all marked C. S. A. on the inside of one end of each bale that I examined and M. S. on the outside. Saw General Ellet, and he ordered me to send in the train when loaded, his cavalry to guard it. I was to leave 12 men at the cotton pile as guards, and march back to Mrs. Valentine's house, 3 miles, and camp.

A small squad of men visited the cotton in the night, but were frightened away. I also, by General Ellet's order, brought in 34 bales of Mrs. Valentine's cotton, which he told me to take in lieu of the Confederate cotton she had unbaled. Afterward I was ordered to bring in all the Valentine cotton remaining in that shed and another one. Told the general I had told them by his order that we had taken 34 bales in place of that scattered on the ground, and would take no more; they could have the loose cotton. He said he had made different arrangements. He would take it all. The loose cotton was to be rebaled on the halves, upon certain other conditions as to time. Took 33 bales out of one shed; could not well get the other. When returning, Mrs. Valentine inquired if we had got

it all, and why we did not; said it made no difference to her, however, as she had sold it to Clemens, and he was to haul it in.

February 27, went out to the Snodgrass place, just beyond; got 82 bales out of a gin, 9 of which were marked M. S. and 73 marked B'burg, claimed by Evans; but one head was out of every bale, and about 50 bales more had been broken open in the gin and the bagging gone. I believe it all to have been C. S. A. or stolen, abandoned cotton. I also brought in another pile of cotton from the same place marked Bruinsburg, 78 bales. Told the general I thought it was private cotton. He said it was no difference; he would seize it; believed it all to be the same lot, and if it was Evans' cotton let him prove it before the assistant Treasury agent. Evans told me he had sold it all to Clemens for $140 per bale, and Clemens to have it drawn to the river. General Ellet told me that McDowell, of Vicksburg, held that all cotton with the ends of the bales defaced, torn out, or newly put in, was C. S. A., or stolen, abandoned cotton; and that a pile that was mixed with C. S. A. was all condemned. I therefore, on finding a lot of about 100 or 120 bales, all but 60 broken open and both heads of the 60 bales gone, took it to the river. Three negroes told me they cut the heads out. I asked what for, and they all said it was Government cotton, and Neely had told them to cut the marks off; did it about a week before. Clemens had bought this lot of Neely, and Neely was baling up the rest for him.

I found a lot of cotton in a secluded place on James Creek, 81 bales, marked Dohan on one end of each bale and C. S. A. on the other end of about 60 bales; others the ends were turned inside out; some were painted over. Hauled it all to the river. Also at corncribs near by found a lot of cotton marked C. S. A., Dohan, Laurel Hill; some marks painted over, some new heads, and a few heads missing, all intermingled; 113 bales, I believe, in all. Dohan claimed for himself and brother all of these two lots of cotton; showed me a kind of safeguard addressed to all officers and soldiers of the Confederate army, directing them not to burn the cotton, as an arrangement had been made between him ———, as agent for the Confederate States, and Mr. Dohan, by which Dohan was to keep the cotton. I told him I would not respect any such claim. He said there was no C. S. A. cotton in either of two lots of 99 bales, a part of the 113 bales. I overhauled it, and found plenty of evidence that he had lied about it.

General Ellet brought some cotton out of Bayou Pierre in a flatboat; my men assisted in unloading it; 350 bales, General Ellet said, and all C. S. A., also that Mrs. Crane claimed that she had burned the C. S. bonds, and now owned the cotton again.

I lost 1 man taken by the rebels and hung; had 1 officer and 2 men accidentally wounded.

We saw rebels nearly every day, but were not attacked. We had captured a number of horses and mules, about 70; about 40 or more were turned loose by order of the general.

March 6, I finished hauling the cotton claimed by Dohan, and was then ordered with all my camp and garrison equipage to embark on the marine boats for Vicksburg, where I arrived the next day. On the way up met a boat, and received the following order:

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 60. HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST, *Vicksburg, Miss., March* 5, 1864.

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II. The commanding officer of the Twelfth Louisiana Infantry Volunteers, African descent, will as soon as possible after the receipt of this order embark his com-

mand with camp and garrison equipage and transportation, and return to this city, occupying his former encampment. Captain Fort, assistant quartermaster, will furnish a steam-boat for this purpose. All captured and abandoned property collected at his present encampment will also be forwarded to this place and reported to the assistant special agent, Treasury Department, on its arrival here.

By order of Brig. Gen. J. McArthur:

W. H. F. RANDALL,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

On arriving here I made a report to the Treasury agent of the 282 bales brought up by the ram Switzerland in a barge, which accompanied us. He said it had been reported to him by General Ellet. I asked some questions in reference to the amount, and kind of evidence required to condemn this cotton we had been getting. Told him I believed it nearly all justly belonged to the United States, and I thought my evidence and that of my officers would be important. He said cotton could not be condemned or confiscated here; that all such cases had to go to the North, and be tried by a court; that when he found a lot of cotton that other parties claimed, and he thought there was evidence enough to condemn it, he sent it up with the papers, but had sent up so many cases wherein the claim of the Government had not been sustained that he did not think that the evidence against any of this cotton we had been engaged in getting out was strong enough to condemn it; that the letters C. S. A. on a bale of cotton was not positive evidence of its being C. S. A. cotton; that a lot with the heads torn out or altered was not evidence, and that the affidavit of Mr. Dohan and his neighbors was evidence that Dohan had or could prove that this cotton was sold to the Confederacy and marked, but that he wanted 12½ cents per pound and they refused to pay it, so he took it back.

I obtained in the twenty days about 20 recruits. General Ellet would not let my officers go out with his cavalry to get any. General Ellet's men got out cotton at Rodney, which I had nothing to do with. The general and the Treasury agents and cotton speculators, by the general's consent or order, took possession of all the cotton I brought in. They rolled nice C. S. A. cotton and inferior private cotton all together, notwithstanding my protest that it should be kept separate, or at least marked.

To sum up, we marched 250 miles, injured our transportation, exposed our lives, got but few recruits, and as far as ending the war is concerned, we did just nothing at all; but, if anything, served to prolong it by assisting a lot of rebels and thieves to sell and get to market about 1,515 bales of private, C. S. A., and abandoned cotton, and a lot of speculators, whose loyalty I very much suspect, in making fortunes.

I had told my officers and men that we had made for the United States about $200,000, but from the conversation I had with John A. McDowell, assistant Treasury agent, I have come to the conclusion that we have not assisted in putting one cent into the U. S. Treasury.

I am, sir, yours, very respectfully,

CHARLES A. GILCHRIST,
*Colonel Twelfth Louisiana, African Descent.*

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Vicksburg, March* 15, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded to department headquarters.

This matter requires a thorough and searching investigation which cannot be had now, the Marine Brigade being absent on the Red River expedition.

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
*Major-General.*

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**FEBRUARY 16–MARCH 27, 1864.—Operations about Mobile, Ala.**

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury, C. S. Army, commanding Department of the Gulf.**

MOBILE, ALA.,
*February* 16, 1864—2 p. m.

Eleven vessels, seven or eight of them mortar-boats, took position yesterday evening for attack on Grant's Pass; opened fire at 9 a. m. All shots fell short. Reported from Enterprise that no enemy is in that direction. Send me four 20-pounder Parrotts and four 30-pounder Parrotts, with 300 rounds for each gun. Send me also 200,000 pounds cannon powder for surplus projectiles, 10,000 pounds rifle powder, and 250,000 caps.

DABNEY H. MAURY,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

General S. COOPER.

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MOBILE, *February* 23, 1864.

Enemy opened on Fort Powell this morning.

D. H. MAURY,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK.

—

MOBILE, *February* 25, 1864.

Visited Fort Powell yesterday with General Gilmer. Six mortar-boats, four gun-boats, lie off about 2 miles and shell it. Three hundred and seventy-three shots were thrown at the fort during the day, three of which struck the bomb-proof, and two struck the parapets.

No damage; no casualties; firing resumed this morning.

D. H. MAURY,
*Major-General.*

General S. COOPER.

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*See also Sherman's report of the Meridian expedition, p. 173. For reports of Union naval operations, see pp. 389, 390, Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 5, 1864.

MOBILE, *February* 29, 1864.

Six mortar-boats, three gun-boats off Fort Powell. Firing renewed this morning. One gun-boat, the Jackson, has been withdrawn on account of injuries. Admiral Buchanan and his fleet gone down into the lower bay. Tennessee expected to get down today. No indications of land attack.

D. H. MAURY,
*Major-General.*

Hon. J. A. SEDDON.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
*Mobile, Ala., March* 3, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR: I have kept you informed by telegraph of all events of interest in this department.

I am glad that before receiving your dispatch directing me to operate against Sherman I had sent General Cantey with a brigade up the Mobile and Ohio Road, with orders to attack and drive back any raiding party and to delay and obstruct Sherman's advance, if it should be found he was really advancing on Mobile by that route. I held re-enforcements ready for General Cantey. I sent this force up at the very earliest moment possible.

The trains with Government stores which were being run down to Mobile made the movement too late to prevent the destruction of the bridge at De Soto; but so soon as the enemy learned of Cantey's advance they retreated hastily toward Meridian, as I expected. General Cantey reported that the force which had been coming down this way was only a raid. I took immediate measures to repair the road, but the injury done to it is very great. Major Whitfield, of the quartermaster's department, and Mr. Fleming, superintendent of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, exhibited a great deal of energy, capacity, and courage in saving the valuable rolling-stock and the Government stores along the road.

For seventeen days the enemy's fleet has been attacking Fort Powell. In that time near 2,000 shot and shell have been thrown at the fort without doing any injury to it which has not been repaired each night by a few hours' work.

Lieutenant-Colonel Williams, commanding, a very gallant and energetic officer, was contused by a fragment of shell; 4 others of the garrison (privates) were slightly wounded, and 1 private killed. There have been no other casualties.

The fort is stronger than on the first day. I have placed batteries on Little Dauphin Island and on Cedar Point.

The fleet is much interrupted in its operations by shoal water and by rough weather. When it resumes the attack I hope the fire of the fort will be more effective than it has yet been. Two of the enemy's boats have been towed off disabled. The present attack does not seem very formidable. If the Tennessee and Nashville can get into the lower bay I believe the enemy will not be able to enter it. The engineers have not yet been able to establish the battery in the channel between Morgan and Gaines.

In making transfers from the Army to the Navy I respectfully suggest that the organizations from beyond the Mississippi be not subject to such transfers, and that only a certain ratio of each organization be transferred. I suggest that the conscript officers here be

permitted to transfer to the Navy conscripts preferring that service, instead of sending them up to Notasulga, thence to be brought back to enter the Navy. I suggest the establishment here of a conscript camp with a view to facilitate the transfers of recruits to existing organizations serving in this department.

There is a body of armed traitors in Jones County, Miss., who have become so formidable that I have sent Colonel Maury with a force to break them up. They have been seizing Government stores, have been killing our people, and have actually made prisoners of and paroled officers of the Confederate army. They now threaten to interfere with the repairing of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. They are represented to be more than 500 strong, with artillery.

The latest reliable dates from New Orleans are to the 22d ultimo. Banks gave a ball at the opera-house on that date. No indication of a serious attack on Mobile was reported.

My reports show that there are in store here more than seven months' breadstuffs for 20,000 men; more than three months' of meat, and a good store of other articles. I have taken up within the fortifications more than 50 acres of gardens, which will very materially increase and improve the subsistence of the troops.

The line now under the enemy's attack has been deprived of its energetic and experienced commander, General Higgins. He is absent from ill health, and I fear cannot again resume his post. I know of no one so desirable to have command there at this time as Col. Henry Maury. I hope he will be promoted so that I can assign him to it.

I earnestly call your attention to the inability of the line officers serving in the field to meet the necessary expenses of living. The system adopted by the commissary department of conforming the prices of articles sold to officers to the schedule adopted by the State commissioners operates very oppressively in Alabama. The price of flour has just been raised by the commissioners of this State from $45 to $100 per barrel. Pork is $2.40 per pound. I respectfully urge a change in the system of charges.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DABNEY H. MAURY,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
*Secretary of War.*

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MOBILE, *March* 5, 1864.

Thirteen vessels off the bar; no firing this morning.

D. H. MAURY,
*Major-General.*

General S. COOPER.

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MOBILE, *March* 27, 1864.

The enemy's fleet, consisting of five schooners and brig, for sometime at Fort Powell, left yesterday, and passed the bar at sundown, sailing eastward. It is supposed they have gone to Pensacola.

DABNEY H. MAURY,
*Major-General.*

General S. COOPER.

**FEBRUARY 17, 1864.—Expedition from Island No. 10 to Riley's Landing, Tenn.**

*Report of Capt. Robert M. Ekings, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Island No.* 10, *Tenn., February* 18, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, having received information that 4 deserters from the Union army were secreted near Tiptonville, Tenn., I with 40 men of my command embarked on a steamer at 2 a. m. of February 17, and proceeded down the river to Riley's Landing, 6 miles below Tiptonville.

At Riley's house we seized a small amount of Government ammunition and several guns. Being unable to carry away these guns we destroyed them.

We then proceeded to the house of one Lewis, where we succeeded in capturing 5 of the gang of guerrillas which has infested the bend for five months past. Together with them we captured their arms and their horses. These men were in bed, having their pistols under their heads, but being completely surprised offered no resistance.

From this point we marched to the place where the deserters were said to be employed, but could find no traces of them. Seeing no chance of effecting any further captures we got on board a boat at Tiptonville and returned to this post.

One of these prisoners, Owen Edwards, is a quasi lieutenant in Meriwether's company of bushwhackers, and is reported to have been in command of the party which fired into a Government boat below Tiptonville about three months ago. Another, Lewis, claims to belong to Faulkner's command. Gregg says he was a private in Meriwether's gang, but that he deserted when Meriwether proceeded south. George Moore, formerly of the rebel army, now horse thief and scoundrel in general, is the fourth person captured; and lastly Clayton, about whom I have no particular information except his being found with the rest at Lewis' house. Lewis is a paroled prisoner. He was formerly a captain in the Fifteenth Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, rebel army. He stated that the guerrillas have eaten over $200 worth of provisions at his house within six months. He has a parole from General Quinby, formerly commanding this district.

Of the captured horses three have been sent to Columbus. The prisoners will be examined and sent to Capt. I. H. Williams, district provost-marshal.

R. M. EKINGS,
*Capt. Company C, 34th New Jersey Infantry, Comdg. Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN, *Asst. Adjt. Gen.*

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**FEBRUARY 17–22, 1864.—Expedition from Motley's Ford, Tenn., to Murphy and vicinity, N. C.**

*Reports of Maj. Nathan Paine, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding expedition.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST WISCONSIN CAVALRY,
*Camp Near Motley's Ford, February* 22, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that in accordance with your orders I proceeded on the 17th instant with 250 men to North Carolina via Tellico Plains,

After the command crossed the State line detachments were sent on all the roads. The country both sides of the Hiwassee, from Taylor's Ferry to Suddorth's Ford (distance 28 miles), from Murphy up the Valley River (12 miles), and from Suddorth's Ford to Fort Hembree (10 miles), was thoroughly examined.

Roads generally good, but very mountainous. No forage from Tellico Plains until you reach Suddorth's Ford. Here there is not to exceed 600 bushels of corn within a circuit of 5 miles. Roughness quite abundant. From Suddorth's to Fort Hembree forage is not plenty. The country is very broken; has been thickly settled, but the houses are now mostly abandoned. The Hiwassee is fordable in several places along the route. There is no organized armed force in that vicinity.

The command was absent six days, during which we captured 28 men, 5 officers, 15 mules, and 4 horses. We met with no loss.

I remain, colonel, your obedient servant,

N. PAINE,
*Major, First Wisconsin Cavalry.*

Col. O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Commanding Second Brigade.*

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HEADQUARTERS FIRST WISCONSIN CAVALRY,
*Motley's Ford, E. Tenn., February 23, 1864.*

COLONEL: In obedience to your orders I proceeded with 250 men toward Murphy, N. C., 17th instant.

I fed at Tellico Plains, took two feeds of corn, and went to the foot of Long Ridge, 10 miles beyond Tellico Plains, where I camped for the night.

The next morning I started with the command at 5 a. m. Four miles from this point a road branches off to Taylor's Ferry, on the Hiwassee River. Captain Jones, First Wisconsin, took this road with 50 men, with orders to go up the south bank of the Hiwassee and join us at Suddorth's Ford, 7 miles beyond Murphy.

When within 10 miles of Murphy, I directed Captain Kessler to take 50 men, go direct to Murphy and to Suddorth's Ford; to halt at that point for the rest of the command to come up. I took the remaining 150 men, bore off to the left, crossing Beaver Dam Creek and Valley River, and reaching Suddorth's the same night. I sent a lieutenant and 20 men from Beaver Dam and Valley River to Suddorth's, via Murphy.

I sent Captain Kneeland with 30 men up the Valley River to a point 12 miles above Murphy.

The next morning Captain Comstock, First Wisconsin, took 50 men and went 1½ miles above Fort Hembree, on the Hiwassee.

At 7 o'clock this evening, the 19th instant, the detachment being all collected and having three feeds of corn shelled, the command started and marched 14 miles toward the Tennessee line.

The following day we marched 18 miles, and camped for the night at Cocoa Creek.

The next day, 21st instant, we marched 13 miles, and camped 3 miles beyond Tellico Plains.

The next day, 22d instant, I reached camp with 33 rebel prisoners, including 5 officers; also 15 mules and 4 horses. Forage and provisions were very scarce along the route.

At Suddorth's we left a large quantity of roughness and a few hundred bushels of corn.

Most of the houses along the road are deserted, the Union people having been compelled to leave the country.

The whole country through which we marched was very barren.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. PAINE,
*Major First Wisconsin Cavalry.*

Col. O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Commanding Second Brigade.*

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**FEBRUARY 18, 1864.—Skirmish near Maryville, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Army Corps.
No. 2.—Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland.

No. 1.

*Report of Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Army Corps.*

LOUDON, TENN.,
*February* 19, 1864.

GENERAL: Colonel McCook reports that his scouts met about 30 of the enemy a mile the other side of Maryville yesterday (the 18th) and drove them back, killing and wounding 5. They report a large body of the enemy's cavalry encamped 4 or 5 miles from Maryville, near the Sevierville road.

Colonel Jaquess reports this morning from Lenoir's that there are no indications of the enemy between that place and Maryville, and that a citizen who came for 15 miles down the north side of the Little Tennessee River last night says he saw no enemy, and heard of none, but citizens were expecting the rebels and were much frightened. Reports from Sweet Water corroborate the above.

G. GRANGER,
*Major-General.*

Major-General SCHOFIELD.

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No. 2.

*Report of Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland.*

MOTLEY'S FORD, TENN.,
*February* 18, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Special Orders, No. 48, Department of the Ohio, attaching my command to that of Major-General Granger.

I also have the honor to report that my scouts met about 30 of the enemy a mile the other side of Maryville at noon to-day, and drove them back, killing and wounding 5; they report a large body of the enemy's cavalry encamped 4 or 5 miles from Maryville, near the Sevierville road.

Two days ago I sent a detachment, 300 strong, to Murphy for the purpose of capturing some of the enemy's infantry (six companies) sent there on furlough.

I will send a full report of the condition of my command, and endeavor to report to-morrow to the general commanding in person.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD M. McCOOK,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. J. S. FULLERTON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**FEBRUARY 18–19, 1864.—Scout from Ooltewah, Tenn., to Burke's and Ellidge's Mills, Ga.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Capt. William C. Harris, Thirty-eighth Illinois Infantry.
No. 2.—Capt. William W. Van Antwerp, Fourth Michigan Cavalry.

No. 1.

*Report of Capt. William C. Harris, Thirty-eighth Illinois Infantry.*

HDQRS. THIRTY-EIGHTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
*Ooltewah Station, Tenn., February* 20, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of a scout made by a detachment of the Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteers and a detachment of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry:

In obedience to orders from brigade headquarters, the command started at 10 o'clock at night, February 18, 1864, the infantry and cavalry moving together for 7 miles. At that point the cavalry took a left-hand road that came in the main Burke's Mill road, 1 mile from the mill. The infantry proceeded on the straight road to the mill. The cavalry arrived at the point where the roads come together before the infantry. It was then getting light, so the captain commanding the cavalry thought it would be imprudent to wait for the infantry.

The first picket was found near Burke's Mill. The cavalry charged on them, and captured 2 of the number. A detachment of cavalry was sent to Cherry's Mill, 1 mile from Burke's Mill, down the creek. A detachment was also sent to Ellidge's Mill, where they found a picket station, and captured 6 men, among the number a lieutenant.

Orders having been entirely complied with, the command marched back, infantry and cavalry together, on the road the infantry went out on, by Salem Church. Upon arriving near Mr. Smith's residence, the command halted and got breakfast and rested.

There was 1 lieutenant, 7 soldiers, and 5 citizens captured. Captain Van Antwerp, commanding the cavalry, will report the number of horses, mules, and arms captured. They are in his possession.

The night was a bitter cold one. The command suffered a great deal. The officers and men endured the march without a murmur, and did their duty very well. The cavalry was especially active and vigilant.

The command arrived in camp at 2.30 p. m., February 19, 1864.

I am, captain, your obedient servant,

W. C. HARRIS,
*Captain, Commanding Thirty-eighth Regiment.*

Capt. S. W. TULEY,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 2.

*Report of Capt. William W. Van Antwerp, Fourth Michigan Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH MICHIGAN CAVALRY,
*Camp Stanley, Ooltewah, Tenn., February* 19, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in compliance with orders I moved from camp on Thursday evening at 10 o'clock with 100 men of my command, and joined the Thirty-eighth Illinois Infantry, Captain Harris commanding.

Subsequently we moved out in conjunction, my command in advance, in the direction of Burke's Mill.

About 1 a. m., when 6 miles from camp, we halted until 4 o'clock, when we again moved forward. After proceeding 2 miles we separated our commands, the infantry taking the road to the right and my command taking the road to the left. Before separating it was understood that we would form a junction 1 mile this side of Burke's Mill.

When I arrived at that point it was some time after daylight, and deeming it imprudent to delay operations I did not wait for the infantry, but pushed forward. When within 200 yards of the mill I observed the rebel picket, and immediately charged with my command, going through and about 100 yards beyond the gap, in which charge I captured 3 of the enemy. As near as I could learn the post was picketed by 4 men.

I then returned with my command to the mill, picketed the front and flanks, and sent out a detachment of 30 men, under command of Lieut. C. T. Hudson, to Ellidge's Mill, and one of 15 men, under command of a non-commissioned officer, to Cherry's Mill. After an hour's absence Lieutenant Hudson returned, having charged a picket of some 30 men near the mill, 6 of whom he captured, 1 a lieutenant. The detachment sent to Cherry's Mill also returned in the course of an hour, but without having seen any rebels.

The infantry having joined us in the mean time, we started back at 8 o'clock, and marched steadily until within 5 miles of our camp at Ooltewah, when the command was halted for one hour and a half to afford the men an opportunity for rest and refreshments.

At 12.30 o'clock we resumed the march, and arrived in camp at 3 p. m.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. W. VAN ANTWERP,
*Captain, Commanding Fourth Michigan Cavalry.*

ACTING ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
*First Brigade, First Division, Fourth Army Corps.*

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**FEBRUARY 19, 1864.—Operations about Brown's Ferry, Ala.**

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, U. S. Army, commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

PULASKI, TENN.,
*February* 19, 1864.

A considerable cavalry force has got back into the Tuscumbia Valley. In an attempt to cross to-day they were repulsed at three

ferries. The force arrived on river yesterday. We lost a few men wounded. The enemy also lost some in wounded, prisoners, and some nine boats, skiffs, and flat-boats.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. J. A. RAWLINS,
*Chief of Staff.*

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PULASKI, *February* 19, 1864.

Colonel Phillips, who is at the river at Lucas' and Brown's Ferry, says three regiments certain have made their appearance on the river to-day and yesterday—one at Decatur, one at Brown's. I was throwing a small mounted force over when we made the discovery. Captured a few boats, prisoners, &c., and it is positive that our crossing has brought Roddey back; but so far as I can learn to-night the prisoners taken do not belong to his command. Will know in morning. Their attempt to cross to this side was a failure to-day, and I do not believe they had any serious intentions of taking over much of a force.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**FEBRUARY 20, 1864.—Skirmish on the Sevierville Road, near Knoxville, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Milo S. Hascall, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Lieut. Col. Robert Klein, Third Indiana Cavalry.

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Milo S. Hascall, U. S. Army.*

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, TWENTY-THIRD ARMY CORPS,
*Knoxville, Tenn., February* 21, 1864.

MAJOR: While I was visiting my command on the other side of the river yesterday the enemy attacked my picket-post on the Sevierville road, and showed themselves rather prominently on all the roads. I thought it best to ascertain what was in our front, and accordingly took the Fourth Tennessee Infantry, under Major Patterson, about 150 to 175 men, and the left wing of the Third Indiana Cavalry, under Lieut. Col. Robert Klein, about 200 men in ranks, and started out on the Sevierville road, the infantry in advance. About a mile out we encountered the enemy's outpost, which was promptly driven away by the infantry. As soon as we had the rebels fairly started in retreat I directed Colonel Klein to go forward with his men and press the enemy vigorously till he ascertained how much force they had. He at once obeyed the order and

fell upon them with great vigor, pushing them back about 2 or 3 miles farther. Finally, with two companies, he charged upon the Fourth and Eighth Tennessee (rebel) Cavalry, and succeeded in cutting off some 200 of them, but could only bring off 10 of them, 1 of whom was the adjutant of the Eighth Tennessee. Having now ascertained from citizens and the prisoners taken that it was two brigades of Martin's (rebel) cavalry that we were contending with, and not deeming it prudent to push any farther with my small force, as compared with theirs, I directed them to withdraw. Colonel Klein lost 6 men wounded, 1 of whom will die. The whole affair was very well executed by Colonel Klein, and proves him to be a remarkably efficient officer. His men behaved themselves also in the most creditable manner.

There were no casualties in the infantry force.

I forward the report of Colonel Klein.

All which is respectfully submitted.

MILO S. HASCALL,
*Brig. Gen. of Vols., Comdg. Division.*

Maj. G. M. BASCOM,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Twenty-third Army Corps.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Robert Klein, Third Indiana Cavalry.*

HDQRS. LEFT WING THIRD INDIANA CAVALRY,
*Near Knoxville, Tenn., February* 21, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report the following as the part taken by my command in the affair of yesterday on the Sevierville road:

After the enemy's outposts were driven in beyond our vedette station, by General Hascall's order I passed to the front with four companies. Leaving one company to guard against a movement around to our rear, I soon met the enemy in considerable force and skirmished (both mounted and dismounted) with them, driving them slowly, until by a charge we drove in the Fourth and Eighth Tennessee Cavalry to where the remainder of their force was dismounted and in line. Here I had every man in hotly engaged, when finding the odds too great against us, I thought it prudent to withdraw, which was done in good order.

As fruits of the engagement I brought off 1 adjutant (Eighth Tennessee) and 9 men, 10 horses, some arms, &c. My loss was 6 men wounded (1 mortally), 12 horses left on the field, 6 stand of arms. The enemy's loss was greater; so far as could be observed, 5 known to be killed. We had at once as many as 200 men cut off, but were too weak to hold them.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT KLEIN,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. EDMUND R. KERSTETTER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

**FEBRUARY 22, 1864.—Skirmishes at Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, on Indian Creek, Va., and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Theophilus T. Garrard, U. S. Army, commanding District of the Clinch.

No. 2.—Brig. Gen. William E. Jones, C. S. Army.

No. 3.—Lieut. Col. Alphonso F. Cook, Eighth Virginia Cavalry.

No. 4.—Col. William E. Peters, Twenty-first Virginia Cavalry.

No. 5.—Capt. John B. Thompson, Twenty-seventh Virginia Cavalry Battalion.

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Theophilus T. Garrard, U. S. Army, commanding District of the Clinch.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE CLINCH,
*Cumberland Gap, Tenn., February* 24, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches of the 19th and 22d instant.

As I telegraphed on the 22d instant, the First Battalion, Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Davis commanding, which was stationed at Wyerman's Mill, 5 miles east from the gap on the Jonesville road, was surprised at daylight that day, entirely surrounded, and, together with an infantry company of the Second North Carolina Mounted Infantry, captured. A company of the Ninety-first Indiana Infantry, in charge of Lieutenant Wise, which was with the command of Colonel Davis, about a quarter of a mile in advance, fought and cut their way through, with a loss of 3 killed and wounded, and escaped. Four officers and about 60 men of Colonel Davis' battalion, and 7 men of the Second North Carolina company succeeded also in making their escape. Colonel Davis, among the captured, is severely wounded.

On account of never having been able to obtain a correct report from that command, it is very difficult to arrive at exact numbers so as to represent the loss of the Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry proper.

Simultaneously with the surprise of Colonel Davis' command the outpost at Powell's bridge, on Tazewell road, where I had 50 men of the Thirty-fourth Kentucky Infantry, in charge of Captain Pickering, stationed at the block-house, was attacked by the enemy (a portion of Vaughn's command) three times, but without success. To prevent their being cut off, I moved Captain Pickering, with his men, to within safe distance.

Yesterday I sent a flag of truce, in charge of Colonel Mehringer, Ninety-first Indiana Infantry, into the enemy's line for the purpose of burying our killed and with a view of obtaining some information. The flag of truce was treated with the utmost civility, but nothing could be ascertained from the fact that we did not get in communication with the commanding officer, although kept waiting a very long time for that purpose.

The lines of this command are now contracted to within 2 miles of the gap.

The entire available force here consists of about 1,200 men (infantry and dismounted cavalry) and about 300 artillery (4 batteries). Three companies of infantry (Ninety-first Indiana) will go home in a day or two to be mustered out of the six months' service.

Pursuant to your instructions, I have ordered the Ninth New Hampshire to this post, although I don't anticipate an attack now.

From an escaped prisoner of the enemy (citizen) I learned that the enemy had been 20 miles above here, but moved down to Ball's Bridge, 13 miles from here, yesterday.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. T. GARRARD,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. E. E. POTTER,
*Chief of Staff.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Brig. Gen. William E. Jones, C. S. Army.*

HEADQUARTERS JONES' CAVALRY,
*Morgan's Farm, Lee County, Va., March* 14, 1864.

COLONEL: On February 21 my command was moved down to Fulkerson's Mill, about 20 miles from Cumberland Gap. Learning from Ewing Litterell, esq., a citizen of this county, and his brother William, a private in the Twenty-seventh Virginia Cavalry Battalion, that Lieut. Col. R. A. Davis, Eleventh Tennessee (Federal) Cavalry, commanded his regiment and about 75 infantry near Gibson's Mill, 5 miles east of the gap, I determined to surprise and capture this force if possible. My command started from its camp at midnight, and when within 4 miles of the pickets of the enemy turned to the left of the road through fields and in by-paths, reaching the rear of the enemy undiscovered at daylight. Thirty men of the Thirty-sixth Battalion Virginia Cavalry were ordered to guard the crossing of Indian Creek between Gibson's and Wyerman's mill-dams, to move into position as the action opened. The Thirty-fourth Battalion Virginia Cavalry, under Captain Sayers, was sent down the road to attack the pickets as soon as firing was heard in rear of the enemy. Reaching the open ground concealed from the enemy near his camp, the head of the column was halted until it could be closed up from single file to fours, and until the Eighth and Twenty-first Regiments and the Twenty-seventh Battalion Virginia Cavalry were all in the open ground. The attack was to have been made with the right of the Twenty-first Regiment on the Valley road, the Eighth to its left, and the Twenty-seventh Battalion on the right of the road. The Eighth took the lead, and on coming in view saw the surprise was complete, and dashed immediately into the camp, dispersing the enemy at the first onset. There was but little firing in this part of the field. Captain Gibson, with his company, on furlough (from the Twenty-seventh Battalion Virginia Cavalry), accompanied the expedition as guides, and moved well to the left to come between [the enemy] and the mountain. It was intended the Eighth should have supported this small force of excellent men, and had it done so the 75 infantry could not have escaped from McPherson's barn. The Thirty-fourth and the detachment of the Thirty-sixth acted well their assigned parts. The remainder of the Thirty-sixth and the Thirty-seventh Battalions were held in reserve and were not needed.

The fruits of the expedition consist of 256 prisoners, 8 wagons, and it is supposed about 100 horses; small-arms were in due proportion, and the entire camp equipage of the Eleventh Tennessee (Federal) Cavalry and a detachment of infantry. There was a rich

harvest of abandoned blankets and overcoats, much needed by my command. Thirteen of the prisoners were runaway slaves.

Our loss was 3 killed and 7 wounded. Among the former was Captain Burks, Twenty-first Virginia Cavalry, a most gallant and excellent officer.

The loss of the enemy was 13 killed and many wounded. Among the latter was Lieut. Col. R. A. Davis, commanding the forces of the enemy.

My thanks are due to my efficient scouts and guides as well as my staff—Capt. W. K. Martin, Lieuts. W. M. Hopkins, F. C. Chamberlayn, and S. F. Adams—for the faithful discharge of their respective duties.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. E. JONES,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. G. M. SORREL,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Army of East Tennessee.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Alphonso F. Cook, Eighth Virginia Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH VIRGINIA CAVALRY,
*March* 10, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor (in the absence of Colonel Corns) to transmit a report of the part taken by the Eighth Regiment Virginia Cavalry in the action near Gibson's Mill on February 22, 1864:

When the brigade halted near the turnpike half mile in rear of the enemy's camp, Colonel Corns received instructions from General Jones to cross the road and advance on the left, or, if he thought it best on reaching the road, to charge the camp. On reaching the road, seeing no way by which he could advance on the left without dismounting, he determined at once to charge them. He gave the order to charge, and when he reached the woods, 400 or 500 yards from the camp, he turned to the left and went in an oblique direction until he found himself near and in rear of the camp and the enemy drawn up in line to receive us. He then wheeled by fours to the right and charged them in line. They gave us one volley as we dashed up, but with little effect, and before they could reload we broke their line and scattered them in every direction. Seeing them running toward the mill-pond in large numbers, I took three companies and followed across the creek, where we succeeded in capturing a great many. The other companies of the regiment were kept by Colonel Corns on the side of the pond next the camp until a large number of prisoners were collected together, when Colonel Corns sent the greater portion of them off with the prisoners.

The loss in the regiment was 1 private killed, 2 mortally wounded (since dead), and 1 or 2 slightly wounded.

There were not over 175 men of the regiment engaged, and I do not think I exaggerate when I say that we either killed, wounded, or captured at least one man for every one engaged.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. F. COOK,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Eighth Virginia Cavalry.*

Lieut. W. M. HOPKINS,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 4.

*Report of Col. William E. Peters, Twenty-first Virginia Cavalry.*

CAMP NEAR BALL'S BRIDGE,
*March* 8, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to forward you the following report of the part taken by the Twenty-first Virginia Cavalry in the engagement at Wyerman's Mill, Lee County, Va., on the 22d day of February, 1864:

When the command of Brig. Gen. William E. Jones arrived within sight of the enemy's camp on the morning of February 22, I was ordered to form the Twenty-first Virginia Cavalry in column of fours and in rear of the Eighth Virginia Cavalry. This was done as ordered. I was informed that the Eighth would pass through the encampment of the enemy if possible. I was directed to dismount my regiment before reaching the enemy's camp, and to post it with its right resting upon the main Cumberland Gap road, with the view of intercepting such of the enemy as should attempt to escape in the direction of either flank, and to be ready for any emergency which might arise. I followed the Eighth in full charge until they opened fire upon the enemy's camp. I at once obliqued to the right and in the direction of the Cumberland Gap road, from which the column in the charge had diverged to the left a considerable distance. Before reaching the road I discovered that a small number of the enemy were attempting to escape between the road and Indian Creek, a short distance beyond, and that a considerable number had already crossed the creek and were making their escape along the opposite bank. I considered that I was justified by the orders given me in advancing the head of my column as far as the creek. This I did, and ordered my men to dismount and to fire upon the enemy on the opposite side. They returned the fire feebly, and dispersed among the cliffs and bluffs of the creek, which was impassable at the point where my command was on account of the steepness of its bank. When the enemy were out of range of my fire I ordered the men to mount, with the view of crossing the creek lower down and of intercepting them. When making this move I was directed by the general commanding to take my command to a point east of the enemy's camp, where there was considerable firing. Captain Thompson, Twenty-seventh Battalion Virginia Cavalry, was sent to intercept the portion of the enemy I was pursuing. Before reaching the point above alluded to, I found the firing proceeded from a small body of the enemy who had succeeded in reaching the spurs of the main Cumberland range, and were firing at very long range upon a portion of Twenty-seventh Battalion. I dismounted a detachment of Twenty-first Virginia Cavalry, placed it in charge of Captain Humes, of said regiment, and ordered him to ascend the spur and gain the rear of the enemy. The latter dispersed and took refuge in the main Cumberland range before this could be effected.

The officers and men of the regiment acted well, both upon its march and during the engagement which followed it.

I exceedingly regret to have to report the loss in this engagement of Capt. C. E. Burks, commanding Company A, Twenty-first Regiment. He was shot during the charge while leading his company,

and survived but a few minutes. He was a most gallant and meritorious officer. There were 2 privates of this regiment slightly wounded.

The regiment captured during the engagement 38 prisoners.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM E. PETERS,
*Colonel Twenty-first Virginia Cavalry.*

Lieut. W. M. HOPKINS,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Jones' Brigade.*

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No. 5.

*Report of Capt. John B. Thompson, Twenty-seventh Virginia Cavalry Battalion.*

MARCH 12, 1864.

Report of the part taken by the Twenty-seventh Battalion Virginia Cavalry in the engagement at Gibson's Mill on February 22, 1864:

On arriving within a mile of the encampment of the enemy on February 22, I was ordered by the general commanding to form my command in columns of fours. This was done. I was further ordered when the command moved to move with it and to post my battalion on this side of the enemy's camp, with its left resting on the road (main Cumberland Gap) and the right on Indian Creek. How far I should move my command before taking position I was not definitely instructed. When the command was ordered forward they moved in full charge. On approaching the enemy's camp they left the main Cumberland Gap road, diverging a considerable distance from it and to the left. I followed at the same speed. When the advance of the Eighth Virginia Cavalry (which was in front of the column) opened fire I at once turned to the right and in the direction of the main Cumberland Gap road. On reaching this I found that the Twenty-first Virginia Cavalry already occupied the space (in considerable extent) between the road and the creek. I moved up as far as the creek, dismounted my battalion, and ordered them to open fire upon a considerable body of the enemy who were attempting to escape along the opposite bank of the creek. They did so. The enemy returned my fire feebly, and dispersed among the cliffs and bluffs of the creek. Finding the creek impassable at the point where I was on account of the steepness of its banks, and hence the pursuit of the ememy impracticable, I ordered my men to mount with the view of crossing the creek lower down and of intercepting them. I found a passage of the creek within a short distance. I at once deployed my men as skirmishers, who soon encountered the fugitive enemy. The larger portion of that body of them were readily captured.

I take pleasure in stating that the men and officers under my command behaved well in the engagement.

My casualties were none killed and 1 wounded. I captured —— prisoners.

I have the honor to be, lieutenant, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. THOMPSON,
*Capt. Co. A, Twenty-seventh Virginia Battalion Cavalry.*

Lieut. W. M. HOPKINS,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Jones' Brigade.*

**FEBRUARY 22, 1864.—Skirmish on Calfkiller Creek, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. William B. Stokes, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry (Union).**

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Sparta, Tenn., February* 24, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I arrived at this place on the 18th instant with Companies A, B, G, I, K, and L, of the Fifth Tennessee Cavalry. I have occupied all of the deserted houses in the town with my men, barricaded the streets strongly, and fortified around my artillery. Since my arrival I have been engaged in scouring the country and foraging, the forage being very scarce and at some distance from the town. I have ascertained that the country is infested with a great number of rebel soldiers under Colonels Hughs, Hamilton, Ferguson, Carter, and Bledsoe, the whole force being under Colonel Hughs, a brave, vigilant, and energetic officer. There is little or no robbing being done by the guerrillas, their attention being directed toward my men. Colonel Hughs' command is well armed, having secured the best of arms when on their raids into Kentucky. They number at least 600 fighting men.

On the 22d instant, two companies of my command, when returning from a scout on Calfkiller River, were attacked by a portion of Hughs' men, numbering about 300, under command of Hughs, Ferguson, Carter, and Bledsoe. After fighting some time they were surrounded and overwhelmed. The officers (6 in number) with 45 men have come in through the hills.

Yesterday Carter made a dash on one of my picket-posts. He had 6 of his men dressed in Federal uniform. The remainder were dressed in gray, and as those dressed in our uniform approached the vedettes they told them not to shoot, that the rebels were after them; and as those in gray appeared a few yards in the rear of those in blue hallooing to them to surrender the story appeared very plausible, and the ones in blue immediately rushed upon the reserve pickets. Four of my pickets were killed—3 after they had surrendered and the other after he had been captured. A great many of the rebels were dressed in our uniform at the time the two companies were attacked, and several of my men were killed after they were captured. Hughs himself does not allow this barbarity, but his subordinate officers practice it.

I have to fight for every ear of corn and blade of fodder I get.

Deserters from the rebel army are constantly joining Hughs. The people are thoroughly and decidedly disloyal, but a great many are taking the oath. The oath of allegiance has been found on the persons of several soldiers we have killed. The country is rocky and mountainous, and very hard for cavalry to operate in. I have to fight rebel soldiers and citizens, the former carrying the arms and doing the open fighting; the latter, carrying news and ambushing.

Portions of Companies C, F, and H arrived to-day. The greater part of these companies remained at Nashville, being without horses. I earnestly urge that they be mounted as soon as possible, and ordered to report to me. Their services are needed very much here, and not at the city of Nashville. Horses are required to mount my men. There are no serviceable ones in the country, the rebels having taken all of

*See also Colonel Hughs' report of operations in Middle Tennessee, January 1-April 18, 1864, p. 55.

them. The rebels are mounted on the fastest horses in the country, and they use them very much to our disadvantage. If all of my regiment were here and mounted, I would soon disperse the rebels. I again urge the necessity of mounting my entire regiment and ordering it to the field.

I respectfully ask that this communication be forwarded to department headquarters for the information of the general commanding.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

W. B. STOKES,
*Colonel Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, Commanding.*

Capt. B. H. POLK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, District of Nashville.*

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### FEBRUARY 22, 1864.—Raid on Mayfield, Ky.

*Report of Col. Stephen G. Hicks, Fortieth Illinois Infantry.*

PADUCAH, KY.,
*February* 29, 1864.

On the 22d instant I received news from Mayfield, Ky., that the place was threatened by a band of guerrillas. I ordered Lieutenant Cunningham, commanding colored troops, to start at daylight with 200 of his men to go as fast as he could to Mayfield, and stay there until further orders.

He left here on the morning of the 23d, went within 15 miles of that place, and encamped at 3 a. m. The guerrillas entered Mayfield, killed J. B. Happy, a good Union man, took Parson Dugger prisoner, put him in heavy bonds, robbed three stores (all belonging to Union men), took all the goods they wanted, and destroyed the rest, and then left.

Lieutenant Cunningham arrived there early on the 24th, and will remain there until further orders.

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel, Commanding Post.*

Brig. Gen. H. T. REID.

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### FEBRUARY 22–27, 1864.—Demonstration on Dalton, Ga.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Feb. 23, 1864.—Skirmishes near Dalton and at Catoosa Station and Tunnel Hill.
24–25, 1864.—Skirmishes at Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, and Rocky Face Ridge (or Crow's Valley).
27, 1864.—Skirmish at the Stone Church, near Catoosa Platform.

REPORTS, ETC.*

No. 1.—Composition of the Union forces.
No. 2.—Return of Casualties in the Union forces.
No. 3.—Brig. Gen. Charles Cruft, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Fourth Army Corps.

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*See also Thomas' report, pp. 9–11; also itinerary of the Department of the Cumberland, pp. 23, 30, 37, and 38.

No. 4.—Surg. Samuel G. Menzies, First Kentucky Infantry, Medical Director.
No. 5.—Col. Thomas E. Champion, Ninety-sixth Illinois Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.
No. 6.—Col. William Grose, Thirty-sixth Indiana Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.
No. 7.—Col. John E. Bennett, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry.
No. 8.—Lieut. Col. William M. Kilgour, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, commanding Eightieth Illinois Infantry.
No. 9.—Col. Louis H. Waters, Eighty-fourth Illinois Infantry.
No. 10.—Lieut Col. Orrin D. Hurd, Thirtieth Indiana Infantry.
No. 11.—Lieut. Col. Oliver H. P. Carey, Thirty-sixth Indiana Infantry.
No. 12.—Lieut. Col. Armstead T. M. Cockerill, Twenty-fourth Ohio Infantry.
No. 13.—Capt. Peter Simonson, Fifth Indiana Battery, Chief of Artillery, First Division, Fourth Army Corps.
No. 14.—Lieut. William H. Heilman, Fifteenth U. S. Infantry, commanding Battery H, Fourth U. S. Artillery.
No. 15.—Congratulatory orders from Headquarters Fourteenth Army Corps.
No. 16.—Capt. Charles R. Case, Acting Signal Officer, commanding Signal Detachment, Fourteenth Army Corps.
No. 17.—Brig. Gen. Richard W. Johnson, U. S. Army, commanding First Division.
No. 18.—Brig. Gen. William P. Carlin, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.
No. 19.—Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.
No. 20.—Brig. Gen. James D. Morgan, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.
No. 21.—Col. Daniel McCook, Fifty-second Ohio Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.
No. 22.—Lieut. Henry R. Flook, Acting Signal Officer, Third Division.
No. 23.—Brig. Gen. John B. Turchin, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Third Division.
No. 24.—Capt. William C. Stineback, Eighty-second Indiana Infantry.
No. 25.—Col. Willard A. Dickerman, One hundred and third Illinois Infantry, commanding First Brigade, Detachment Fifteenth Army Corps.
No. 26.—Col. Eli Long, Fourth Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, Second Cavalry Division.
No. 27.—Capt. William W. Van Antwerp, Fourth Michigan Cavalry.
No. 28.—General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army, commanding Army of Tennessee.
No. 29.—Maj. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart, C. S. Army, commanding division, Hindman's Corps.
No. 30.—Brig. Gen. Henry D. Clayton, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.
No. 31.—Brig. Gen. Marcellus A. Stovall, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.
No. 32.—Col. John H. Higley, Fortieth Alabama Infantry, commanding Moore's brigade.
No. 33.—Brig. Gen. Mark P. Lowrey, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.
No. 34.—Brig. Gen. Alfred Cumming, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.
No. 35.—Brig. Gen. Edmund W. Pettus, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.
No. 36.—Brig. Gen. Alexander W. Reynolds, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.
No. 37.—Maj. T. R. Hotchkiss, C. S. Artillery, commanding Artillery Battalion.
No. 38.—Maj. James F. Waddell, C. S. Artillery, commanding Artillery Battalion.
No. 39.—Extract from Itinerary of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of Tennessee.

## No. 1.

### *Composition of the Union forces.*

### FOURTH ARMY CORPS.

FIRST DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. CHARLES CRUFT.*

*First Brigade.*

Col. WILLARD A. DICKERMAN.

93d Illinois, Lieut. Col. Nicholas C. Buswell.
103d Illinois, Maj. Asias Willison.
12th Indiana, Lieut. Col. James Goodnow.
97th Indiana, Capt. David Shelby.
99th Indiana, Capt. Josiah Farrar.
32d Missouri, Maj. Abraham J. Seay.

*Second Brigade.*

Col. THOMAS E. CHAMPION.

96th Illinois, Lieut. Col. John C. Smith.
115th Illinois, Col. Jesse H. Moore.
84th Indiana, Maj. Andrew J. Neff.
8th Kentucky (5 companies), Capt. Coleman D. Benton.
40th Ohio, Col. Jacob E. Taylor.
99th Ohio, Maj. Benjamin F. Le Fever.

*Third Brigade.*

Col. WILLIAM GROSE.

75th Illinois, Col. John E. Bennett.
80th Illinois, Lieut. Col. William M. Kilgour.
84th Illinois, Col. Louis H. Waters.
30th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Orrin D. Hurd.
36th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Oliver H. P. Carey.
24th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Armstead T. M. Cockerill.

*Artillery.*

Capt. PETER SIMONSON.

Indiana Light, 5th Battery, Lieut. Alfred Morrison.
4th United States, Battery H, Lieut. William H. Heilman.

CAVALRY.

4th Michigan (detachment), Capt. William W. Van Antwerp.
4th Ohio (detachment), Capt. Philip H. Warner.

### FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Maj. Gen. JOHN M. PALMER.†

FIRST DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. RICHARD W. JOHNSON.

*First Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM P. CARLIN.

88th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Cyrus E. Briant.
2d Ohio, Col. Anson G. McCook.
94th Ohio, Col. Stephen A. Bassford.
10th Wisconsin, Capt. Jacob W. Roby.

*Second Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. JOHN H. KING.

19th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Alexander W. Raffen.
15th United States (1st Battalion), Maj. Albert Tracy.
16th United States (1st Battalion), Capt. Robert P. Barry.
18th United States (1st Battalion), Capt. George W. Smith.
18th United States (2d Battalion), Capt. Henry Haymond.
19th United States (1st Battalion), Capt. James Mooney.

* The proper First Brigade of this division, commanded by Col. David A. Enyart, remained at Ooltewah, Tenn. Its place was supplied by Matthies' brigade, of the Fifteenth Army Corps, the composition of which is here given.

† In immediate command of all the forces engaged in the demonstration.

*Third Brigade.*

Col. HENRY A. HAMBRIGHT.

24th Illinois:
Col. Geza Mihalotzy.*
Lieut. Col. John Van Horn.
37th Indiana, Maj. Thomas V. Kimble.
79th Pennsylvania, Maj. Michael H. Locher.
1st Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. George B. Bingham.

*Artillery.*

1st Michigan Light, Battery A (one section), Lieut. Clark M. Harris.

SECOND DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JEFFERSON C. DAVIS.

*First Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. JAMES D. MORGAN.

60th Illinois,† Col. William B. Anderson.
10th Michigan:
Lieut. Col. Christopher J. Dickerson.‡
Maj. Henry S. Burnett.

*Second Brigade.*

Lieut. Col. CARTER VAN VLECK.
Col. JOHN G. MITCHELL.§

78th Illinois:
Maj. George Green.
Lieut. Col. Carter Van Vleck.
108th Ohio, Maj. Joseph Good.
113th Ohio, Maj. Lyne S. Sullivant.

*Third Brigade.*

Col. DANIEL MCCOOK.

85th Illinois, Col. Caleb J. Dilworth.
86th Illinois, Lieut. Col. David W. Magee.
125th Illinois, Col. Oscar F. Harmon.
52d Ohio, Lieut. Col. Charles W. Clancy.

*Artillery.*

Minnesota Light, 2d Battery (one section), Lieut. Henry W. Hardee.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. ABSALOM BAIRD.

*First Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. JOHN B. TURCHIN.

82d Indiana:
Lieut. Col. Paul E. Slocum.‖
Capt. William C. Stineback.
11th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Ogden Street.
89th Ohio, Maj. John H. Jolly.
92d Ohio, Maj. John C. Morrow.

*Second Brigade.*

Col. FERDINAND VAN DERVEER.

87th Indiana, Col. Newell Gleason.
9th Ohio, Col. Gustave Kammerling.
35th Ohio, Capt. Samuel L'Hommedieu.
105th Ohio, Lieut. Col. George T. Perkins.

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*Mortally wounded February 25.
† Non-veterans Sixteenth Illinois attached.
‡ Wounded and captured February 25.
§ Assumed command February 26.
‖ Wounded February 26.

*Third Brigade.*

Col. WILLIAM H. HAYS.

10th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Marsh B. Taylor.
74th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Myron Baker.
10th Kentucky, Maj. Henry G. Davidson.

*Artillery.*

Indiana Light, 19th Battery, Capt. Samuel J. Harris,* Lieut. William P. Stackhouse.

CAVALRY.

*Second Brigade, Second Division.*

Col. ELI LONG.

98th Illinois (mounted infantry), Capt. William Wood.
2d Kentucky (detachment), Lieut. Col. Elijah S. Watts.
4th Michigan.†
1st, 3d, and 4th Ohio (detachments), Capt. Richard B. Wood.‡

*Unassigned.*

8th Indiana Cavalry, Col. Thomas J. Harrison.
28th Kentucky (mounted infantry), Col. William P. Boone.
15th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Col. William J. Palmer.

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## No. 2.

## *Return of Casualties in the Union forces.*

[Compiled from official reports and returns.]

| Command. | Killed. | Wounded. | Captured or missing. | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| First Division, Fourth Army Corps | 5 | 64 | 6 | 75 |
| First Division, Fourteenth Army Corps | 7 | 6 | ..... | 13 |
| Second Division, Fourteenth Army Corps | 18 | 87 | 26 | 131 |
| Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps | 10 | 79 | 1 | 90 |
| First Brigade, detachment Fifteenth Army Corps | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Second Brigade, Second Cavalry Division | 2 | 19 | 2 | 23 |
| | 42 | 255 | 35 | 332 |
| 8th Indiana Cavalry *a* | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 28th Kentucky | 1 | 12 | ..... | 13 |
| Total | 43 | 267 | 35 | 345 |

*a* Loss, if any, not of record.

* Wounded February 25.
† Detached with First Division, Fourth Corps.
‡ Killed February 25.

No. 3.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Charles Cruft, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Fourth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, FOURTH ARMY CORPS,
*Blue Springs, Tenn., March 2, 1864.*

MAJOR: The following report of the operations of the division under my charge during the recent reconnaissance in force to the vicinity of Dalton is herewith submitted.

The troops below named constituted the command, to wit:

| Command. | Effective strength. | | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | |
| Second Brigade, First Division, Fourth Army Corps, Col. Thomas E. Champion, commanding: | | | |
| 96th Illinois Volunteers, Lieut. Col. J. C. Smith | 14 | 295 | 309 |
| 115th Illinois Volunteers, Col. J. H. Moore | 21 | 330 | 351 |
| 84th Indiana Volunteers, Maj. A. J. Neff | 15 | 330 | 345 |
| 40th Ohio Volunteers, Col. J. E. Taylor | 14 | 360 | 374 |
| 99th Ohio Volunteers, Maj. B. F. Le Fever | 19 | 302 | 321 |
| 8th Kentucky Volunteers, Capt. C. D. Benton | 8 | 222 | 230 |
| | 91 | 1,839 | 1,930 |
| 5th Indiana Battery, Lieut. A. Morrison | 3 | 98 | 101 |
| Aggregate | 94 | 1,937 | 2,031 |
| Third Brigade, First Division, Fourth Army Corps, Col. William Grose, commanding: | | | |
| 84th Illinois Volunteers, Colonel Waters | 20 | 293 | 313 |
| 75th Illinois Volunteers, Colonel Bennett | 20 | 219 | 239 |
| 36th Indiana Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Carey | 12 | 268 | 280 |
| 30th Indiana Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Hurd | 11 | 190 | 201 |
| 80th Illinois Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Kilgour | 8 | 356 | 364 |
| 24th Ohio Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Cockerill | 13 | 180 | 193 |
| Battery H, 4th U. S. Artillery, Lieutenant Heilman | 3 | 103 | 106 |
| Aggregate* | 67 | 1,729 | 1,796 |
| First Brigade, detachment Fifteenth Army Corps, Col. W. A. Dickerman, commanding: | | | |
| 103d Illinois Volunteers, Maj. Asias Willison | 13 | 183 | 196 |
| 93d Illinois Volunteers, Lieut. Col. N. C. Buswell | 12 | 243 | 255 |
| 12th Indiana Volunteers, Lieut. Col. James Goodnow | 15 | 373 | 388 |
| 32d Missouri Volunteers, Maj. A. J. Seay | 8 | 129 | 137 |
| 97th Indiana Volunteers, Capt. David Shelby | 16 | 265 | 281 |
| 99th Indiana Volunteers, Capt. Josiah Farrar | 19 | 385 | 404 |
| Total | 83 | 1,578 | 1,661 |
| Detachment 4th Michigan Cavalry, Captain Van Antwerp | 2 | 98 | 100 |
| Detachment 4th Ohio Cavalry, Capt. P. H. Warner | 3 | 52 | 55 |
| Total | 5 | 150 | 155 |

A recapitulation from the above shows the entire force as follows:

| Arm. | Officers. | Men. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Infantry | 258 | 5,023 | 5,281 |
| Cavalry | 5 | 150 | 155 |
| Artillery | 6 | 201 | 207 |
| Aggregate | 269 | 5,374 | 5,643 |

*An apparent error in either the factors or in the addition of the figures. See Grose's report, p. 432.

On Sunday, 21st instant, orders were received from department headquarters commanding me to report to Maj. Gen. John M. Palmer for duty during the proposed reconnaissance, which was promptly done. During the day orders were had from General Palmer to move light and with three days' rations on the following morning, occupy Red Clay, prosecute a reconnaissance in direction of Varnell's Station, and await further orders.

Monday, 22d instant, at 8 a. m., the Second and Third Brigades, of the Fourth Corps (the First being left in position at Ooltewah), were moved to Red Clay, distant 10 miles, reaching there at 1 p. m. Captain Van Antwerp's detachment of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry (ordered from Ooltewah) arrived at the same time. At 2 p. m. Colonel Grose's (Third) brigade was sent upon a reconnaissance south toward Varnell's Station along the road near the railway, with Captain Van Antwerp's cavalry covering its left along the Cleveland and Dalton wagon road. This reconnaissance was satisfactorily made by Colonel Grose and the cavalry as far as Varnell's Station, and resulted in driving in the enemy's cavalry pickets near that place and the capture of 3 prisoners, returning about night-fall. Upon arriving at Red Clay dispatches were sent to Major-General Palmer at Ringgold by way of Parker's Gap by couriers. At 8 p. m. a dispatch was received from Col. Eli Long, commanding Second Brigade, Second Division Cavalry, from the burnt mill on Cleveland and Spring Place road, giving information of his arrival there at 2.20 p. m. Colonel Long subsequently moved to Waterhouse's Mill, on the Connesauga River, and encamped for the night.

Tuesday, 23d, at 11 a. m., the First Brigade of Brigadier-General Matthies' detachment of Fifteenth Army Corps, Col. W. A. Dickerman commanding, reported at Red Clay. Three regiments (Col. I. M. Kirby commanding) from First Brigade (Col. D. A. Enyart) of this division also reported at a position indicated some 3 or 4 miles west of Red Clay to observe the roads and gaps upon the flank in that direction. The latter force remained during the day, and returned in the evening to camp at Ooltewah. About 2 p. m. Maj. D. W. Norton, acting assistant adjutant-general to Major-General Palmer, arrived from Ringgold, bearing orders to move the command to Catoosa Platform, on the Chattanooga and Atlanta railway. At 3 p. m. the column moved, and encamped on the east bank of Tiger Creek, near the Stone Church, about 10 p. m. The distance marched by Colonel Dickerman's brigade this day was 25 miles—by the residue of the column 12 miles. Colonel Long was informed of the change of position. The substance of the dispatch received from Colonel Long, advising me of his attack at 11.30 a. m. upon a rebel camp about 3½ miles from Dalton, and capture of 12 prisoners, was promptly forwarded to headquarters during the evening.

Wednesday, February 24, in accordance with verbal orders from Major-General Palmer, at 10 a. m. the command was marched back to Lee's house at the intersection of the roads leading from Catoosa Platform to Varnell's Station and from Cleveland to Tunnel Hill, and 3½ miles from the platform. Here Colonel Dickerman's brigade was placed in position to hold the valley and be thrown as a support to either of the others. Colonel Champion was ordered to advance with his brigade on Tunnel Hill road and take position upon the left of our troops that were advancing on the hill along the line of the railway. Colonel Grose's brigade, with a section of artillery and Captain Van Antwerp's detachment of cavalry, was dispatched

upon a reconnaissance on the road leading from the Catoosa Platform and Varnell's Station road, down the valley on the east side of Rocky Face Ridge to Buzzard Roost Gap and Dalton, with instructions to feel the enemy sturdily if encountered in that direction, at least sufficiently to develop his strength and position, and to report what information could be obtained. These dispositions were completed by 12 m., and the two brigades were in motion.

Colonel Champion's brigade advanced steadily for 4 miles to the range of hills in front and sight of Tunnel Hill, reaching it just as the skirmishers of General Davis' advancing line struck the road on which he was passing and halted. A line of skirmishers was immediately thrown forward from his brigade in extension of General Davis' left, commanding the east slope of the hill over which the road ran and the valley beyond to the Tunnel Hill ridge, and the brigade halted to conform to the movements of the right. The position of the brigade was reported to Major-General Palmer and to Brigadier-General Davis promptly, and orders awaited. Skirmishing and artillery firing was progressing to the right, but nothing transpiring in the front; a few rebels appeared on the Tunnel Hill ridge to the left. A company was ordered up the hill to reconnoiter it, when they ran away. In conformity to orders from the major-general commanding, the brigade remained in the position indicated. Saw our people occupy the hill and pass over it, and at, say, 4 p. m. received orders to return to Lee's Cross-Roads and go into bivouac, which was done.

Colonel Grose with his brigade, after leaving Lee's at midday, marched southeast, say 1½ miles, crossing Rocky Face Ridge and a ridge beyond, and then turned south in the direction of Dalton and passed down the valley. He reached the point where the Dalton road struck the road leading to the right toward Buzzard Roost Gap and here, about 2.30 p. m., encountered the cavalry command of Colonel Long, which had been skirmishing with the enemy successfully on various approaches to Dalton during the day. These officers, upon joining their commands, determined to feel the enemy, who was reported to be in front in considerable strength. Nothing but cavalry, however, had hitherto been seen. Colonel Long took the advance about 3.30 p. m., supported by Colonel Grose, and they drove the enemy's cavalry 2 miles before them, when they came upon a large infantry force of the enemy near Glaize's house in position on the railroad below Buzzard Roost Gap, and about 3 miles from Dalton. After considerable musketry and the use of the section of artillery, the enemy with quite a spirited skirmish were driven under cover of their rifle-pits and held at the railway till night-fall, when our troops fell back, say 2 miles, and bivouacked.

In this engagement the casualties fell principally on Colonel Long's command, who is reported to have charged the enemy in splendid style. Colonel Grose reported to me (while accompanying Colonel Champion's column) by courier all the particulars of these skirmishes, and he, being confident that he could "hold his own" or get out without too great hazard, the reserve brigade was not sent up to him. This reconnaissance developed the enemy in large force in Mill Creek Gap and below Buzzard Roost Gap and prepared to make a vigorous resistance to the occupancy of Dalton. During all the while he had been also successfully holding the gap above against the troops of Generals Johnson and Davis, who occupied, as was understood, the upper entrance of the gap, and had force enough all

around Dalton to prevent the cavalry approaching nearer than 3 miles. Things remained in this shape during the early part of the night. Report of the information obtained was made to the major-general commanding during the evening. Division staff officers were sent to Colonel Grose's front, from time to time, to observe the condition of affairs and every effort made to acquire knowledge of the enemy's position, numbers, and intention. At 12 midnight orders were received to move the remainder of division up to the point where Colonel Grose was bivouacked, starting at 3 a. m. in the morning.

Thursday, 25th, the column started from Lee's house at 3 a. m. and made a rapid march to Burke's farm, say 5 miles, the head arriving before dawn of day. It was here rested for a short time. The morning was cloudy and raw, the atmosphere heavy and full of fog and mist. It was impossible to see the lay of the country or to discern objects at any considerable distance. Colonels Grose and Long were in position, and had their pickets out covering their respective troops.

Shortly after daylight orders were received from the major-general commanding to push the column toward Dalton and attack any force that might be met. After a brief conference with Colonels Grose and Long, and consideration of the information which they had obtained over night, the column was ordered up to Neal's farm at the point where the road turned left to Dalton direct, and the formation of a line of battle commenced preparatory to an advance. While forming the line the enemy commenced a sharp attack upon the pickets, who reported the advance of a heavy column of infantry. Measures were instantly taken to ascertain the truth of the report, and a temporary line of battle was rapidly formed of such troops as had come up to resist any assault and cover the formation of the residue. At this time, say 8 a. m., Major-General Palmer arrived. The column of Brigadier-General Baird had arrived a short while previous, and an interview been had with General Baird. Major-General Palmer, upon investigating the condition of affairs on our front and right flank, adopted the plan of attack that was in progress of preparation, and took command of the field. Brigadier-General Baird was ordered to occupy Cox's Valley and advance down it, occupying the right in the attack. The line of this division was adopted as a point from which to commence the advance. The space over which Brigadier-General Baird marched to get into line consumed some time. The line of this command was formed with two brigades front and one in reserve opposite the interval of the front line, all in double lines. The cavalry of Colonel Long and Captain Van Antwerp covered the left flank thoroughly as far as the Cleveland and Dalton railway. Colonel Grose's brigade was upon the right of the line of battle, and was the brigade of direction; Colonel Champion's brigade on the left, and Colonel Dickerman's brigade formed by regiments at double-column on center, in reserve. The two batteries were each on the right of their brigade.

At 11.20 Major-General Palmer gave orders to advance. Colonel Grose was immediately put in motion, and the line started. In a few moments the skirmishers ran on those of the enemy, and a sharp discharge of musketry commenced. The lines were pressed steadily on for somewhat over a mile. At this point the enemy occupied a steep wooded ridge in our front in considerable force. It was successfully carried by the Second and Third Brigades without breaking step, the enemy falling back to a ridge beyond. Upon obtaining the crest of the first ridge and commencing the descent the brigade of direction was halted about 1 p. m. by command of Major-

General Palmer and the line adjusted thereto. The artillery of the division now opened on the enemy, and was soon replied to. During the day this position was firmly held. Several quite obstinate attempts were made to turn the left of the division, but with the vigilance of the cavalry and some timely precautions adopted by Colonel Champion, commanding Second Brigade, they were prevented. It was apparent to the most casual observer that the enemy had superior force in our front and on the left flank, as well as a superior position for his lines. The assault on the enemy on the right was handsomely made about 3 p. m., but was not wholly successful.

During this assault the artillery of this division and the skirmishers opened as brisk fire as practicable by way of diversion from our right. There was nothing of interest transpired in our front after taking the ridge. The men of the front line speedily erected temporary barricades, and lay behind them awaiting attack or orders to advance. The enemy were threatening all day but made no attack, and the fight gradually subsided to a contest between skirmishers and artillery on both sides, and finally ceased toward evening. About sunset the enemy opened a rapid artillery fire on the entire line. This was speedily replied to by Colonel Grose with Battery H, Fourth U. S. Artillery, and after a few moments everything was again quiet.

About 8 p. m. orders were received to fall back to the position occupied in the morning, the objects of the reconnaissance having been effected. The division marched at 10 p. m., and was brought back to Lee's house in good order and without accident, the advance reaching there by 1 a. m.

Friday, February 26, under orders from major-general commanding, the three brigades of the division were placed in position to hold the valley about Lee's against any attack. Colonel Dickerman's brigade was sent in the gap east of the house on the main road, Colonel Grose's brigade opposite the gap 1½ miles south, and Colonel Champion's across the valley holding the Tunnel Hill road. Orders from the major-general commanding, however, changed these dispositions soon after they were made. Colonels Grose and Champion were both sent considerably farther down the valley to positions indicated in orders. Early in the day the enemy advanced their cavalry upon us. Colonels Dickerman and Grose had hardly assumed their first positions before sharp skirmishing commenced on their picket-lines. This was maintained until Colonel Long's cavalry force was dispatched to clear the front, which was soon done, the enemy skirmishing away from his advance.

But a single casualty occurred to my command. Early in the morning Captain Van Antwerp had been sent with his cavalry command down the road to Neal's farm, and if possible to go to the place of the engagement of the day previous. Assistant Surgeon Ravenot, of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteers, was sent with the cavalry detachment to visit a wounded soldier who had been left at Burke's house, near Big Spring, and became separated from the troops and was probably captured.

Captain Van Antwerp reached a point below Neal's and about 1 mile distant from the line of battle of Thursday, where he encountered a superior force of the enemy's cavalry, and was compelled to fall back. On returning he also encountered another mounted party of the enemy at the Tunnel Hill and Varnell's Station road, and was compelled to make a detour to the right to avoid it and reach his camp.

At 9 p. m., in accordance with orders, the division was marched again to the Stone Church, Colonel Long being left at Lee's house to hold that position. The troops bivouacked in line about 12 o'clock, midnight.

Saturday, February 27, the division rested until 1 p. m., when, in accordance with orders, it commenced march back to its encampment at Blue Springs. Three regiments of the Second Brigade, a section of the Fifth Indiana Battery, and Captain Van Antwerp's detachment of cavalry were left in rear of the column and transportation to guard against any dash of the enemy's mounted skirmishers, which were reported to be hanging about. The picket-line of General Johnson's command was taken off without being replaced by other troops, and left my right flank exposed. The detachment of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry was ordered to replace them as soon as the fact was known. This detachment met the enemy advancing upon us while the column was moving and before the whole of it had passed the Stone Church. After some sharp skirmishing the cavalry detachment was compelled to fall back. Colonel Taylor, Fortieth Ohio, in charge of the rear guard, placed his regiment in position and strengthened the camp picket-line, and Captain Simonson, chief of artillery, opened with a few shells upon the enemy and put them to flight. Colonel Van Derveer, of General Baird's division, shortly advanced with his command beyond the creek in direction of the enemy and relieved my troops, who then marched out. No damage resulted from this assault, and no confusion was created thereby in my command.

The division marched 9 miles during the afternoon and encamped for the night on Ewing's farm, on the old Alabama road; at 6 p. m. Colonel Long was ordered to cover the right flank, marching at 3 p. m. by way of Red Clay to Cleveland.

Sunday, February 28, march was resumed at 8 a. m., and continued without incident until the column reached Howard's Stand. Here Colonel Dickerman's brigade was sent on to its camp at Cleveland, via Tucker's Mill, and the other two brigades turned off to their camps at Blue Springs, the latter arriving at 1 p. m., marching 12 miles, Colonel Dickerman marching 16 miles.

The following tabular statement exhibits the casualties of this division during the entire reconnaissance, viz:

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Missing. | | Total. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| Second Brigade | ..... | 4 | ..... | 30 | ..... | 2 | ..... | 36 | 36 |
| Third Brigade | ..... | 1 | 1 | 28 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 32 | 34 |
| Cavalry | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | 4 |
| Aggregate | ..... | 5 | 1 | 62 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 72 | 74 |

The following reports and exhibits are herewith submitted, to-wit:*

The reports contain many details of importance which it is impossible to notice in a general account of the reconnaissance, and all valuable as contributing to its history from various points of view.

* List of casualties omitted. The reports appear in their proper order.

The plats of the field of the 25th all differ somewhat in detail. That accompanying the report of Colonel Grose covers a greater extent of country, and probably is most valuable. It is faulty to some extent in regard to the disposition of the lines of our forces, but in its main features of topography seems to be correct.

The acknowledgments of the general commanding division are due to Col. William Grose, commanding Third Brigade, and Col. W. A. Dickerman, commanding First Brigade, detachment Fifteenth Army Corps, for the courageous, cheerful, and satisfactory manner in which they bore themselves through the entire reconnaissance and the mode in which they managed their respective commands. The commendations of the general commanding are also due to all the officers, field, line, and staff, of the entire command, for their unexceptionally good conduct.

The enlisted men deserve great praise. They conducted themselves in a soldierly and handsome manner. They were eager to engage the enemy, willing to march at all hours, cheerful under any emergency, and anxious to do their whole duty. Much less straggling, pillaging, shirking, and kindred annoyance were observable on this march than is usual.

Col. Eli Long, commanding Second Brigade, Second Division of Cavalry, with his command, covered the exposed flank of the division during the entire march, and conformed his movements to those of the division. Though acting under independent orders from department headquarters he at all times co-operated with me, and by the bravery with which he rushed his column and the care which he took to communicate all the intelligence he could obtain, contributed largely to attaining the objects of the reconnaissance.

The general staff of the division merits notice for the efficient manner in which the members of it discharged their various duties. It was comprised of the following officers: Maj. W. H. Sinclair, assistant adjutant-general; Surg. S. G. Menzies, medical director; Capt. G. C. Kniffin, commissary of subsistence; Capt. J. W. Steele, Forty-first Ohio Volunteers, acting inspector; Capt. H. E. Stansbury, Nineteenth U. S. Infantry, acting aide-de-camp; Lieut. John A. Wright, First Kentucky Volunteers, aide-de-camp; Capt. U. Stevens, Twenty-fourth Ohio Volunteers, provost-marshal; Lieut. Goddard, Fourth Ohio Cavalry, acting ordnance officer. Captain Van Antwerp, Fourth Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, and Captain Warner, Fourth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, handled their commands with boldness and skill, and rendered great service on the march, both in scouting and escort duty.

In concluding it may be remarked that the number of miles marched by the brigade average 80 during the seven days' absence from camp, and that four marches were made during a portion of as many nights.

The principal inconvenience suffered by the troops was loss of rest. Both men and animals improved otherwise on the trip. The weather and roads were unusually good. The expedition was understood by officers and men to be an armed reconnaissance, and they returned to camp in the belief that its objects had been attained and without any loss of morale therefrom. No Government property of any kind was lost or destroyed, the men were well rationed, the wounded all kindly cared for and removed to Chattanooga (except in a single case, too serious to bear removal, which was left with a family near the place of engagement on the 25th).

The recent reconnaissance developed the enemy in force (with infantry, artillery, and cavalry) at and near Dalton, and prepared to dispute every approach. It is most probable that Stewart's and Stevenson's divisions, and Breckinridge's old division, Wheeler's cavalry, and Smith's Texas brigade of the enemy, participated to a greater or less extent in the fight on the 25th ultimo.

With assurances of regard to the major-general commanding Fourteenth Corps,

I am, major, very truly, your obedient servant,

CHARLES CRUFT,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. D. W. NORTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 4.

*Report of Surg. Samuel G. Menzies, First Kentucky Infantry, Medical Director.*

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, FOURTH ARMY CORPS,
*Blue Springs, Bradley County, Tenn., February* 29, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows, viz:

That on the 22d day of February, 1864, twelve regiments of this division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Charles Cruft, left camp at and around Blue Springs, Bradley County, Tenn., and marched 9 miles to Red Clay, Ga., the old council ground of the Cherokee Indians, where they were joined by six regiments of General Matthies' division, under Colonel Dickerman. The troops were in fine health and spirits, marched well, and were joyous at the prospect of meeting the enemy.

Next day, the 23d, the whole command, eighteen regiments, moved 6 or 8 miles to the farm of Dr. Lee, near Catoosa Springs, a locality in the region of Catoosa Platform, Stone Church, Ringgold, and Tunnel Hill. In the night moved 2 miles toward Stone Church.

After maneuvering in the mountains the 24th, staid at Dr. Lee's until 3 a. m. of the 25th, Third Brigade being 4 miles in the front at Big Spring. At that hour we started forward, and came to the mountain on the north side of Buzzard Roost Gap by 9 o'clock, and found the enemy in force on the top of the mountain. General Cruft, forming the left of our line, marched this division up the hill-side and the attack commenced. At the foot of the hill, in some old cabins on a small rivulet, I established a field hospital. Wounded began to come by 11 a. m., and continued coming slowly until the middle of the afternoon, when the shells began to fly so thick around the hospital we were compelled to fall back 2 miles to Big Spring, where a barn was policed and three hospital tents pitched.

Before leaving the first hospital site, 25 patients in ambulances were sent to Chattanooga, under charge of Surgeon Cooke, Twenty-fourth Ohio Volunteers. They were dressed and cared for before leaving, except 3 or 4, who came down the mountain and fell in the train for Chattanooga without orders.

At 9 p. m. orders came to leave Big Spring, return to Dr. Lee's farm, and send the rest of the wounded to Chattanooga. This was done, all the patients going but 1, an artilleryman, who was hurt in the hip and exsection of the upper third femur made by Surgeon Abbott. He was left with a family at Big Spring. Along with our

wounded 11 of Colonel Long's men, who had been wounded the day before, were sent in our ambulances, under charge of Assistant Surgeon Barnes, of Long's cavalry, our own being under charge of Surgeon Mills, Eighth Kentucky Volunteers. As Brigade Surgeon Thompson was with Long's command, and will doubtless report, I will make no further allusion to his wounded. Two operations were performed—amputation below the knee, by Surgeon Beach, at the cabins; exsection hip joint, by Surgeon Abbott, at Big Spring.

The casualties amount to 59. (See report* of wounded accompanying; other commands adding about 9 more.)

It is a source of much gratification to report the general good conduct of the medical officers both in the field and hospital, especially Surgeons Kersey, Beach, and Abbott in the hospital. I must also commend the skill and promptness shown by Ambulance Master Mitchell. The ambulances were always in place and the wounded carefully brought off.

On the morning of the 26th, with the consent of General Cruft, I sent Assistant Surgeon Ravenot, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteers, with a company of cavalry back to Big Spring, 5 miles, to see after the wounded man who had been left the night before. He got separated from his escort and has not been heard of since; it is feared is captured.

In the night of the 26th, the command marched to Stone Church.

Midday of the 27th, moved toward our old quarters, and arrived on the 28th at noon in good style.

Very respectfully,

S. G. MENZIES,
*Medical Director First Division, Fourth Army Corps.*

Surgeon PHELPS,
*Medical Director Fourth Army Corps.*

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No. 5.

*Report of Col. Thomas E. Champion, Ninety-sixth Illinois Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST DIV., 4TH ARMY CORPS,
*In the Field, near Stone Church, February 27*, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that on Monday, the 22d instant, at 9 a. m., this brigade left camp at Blue Springs, Tenn., and together with the Third Brigade proceeded on a reconnaissance to Red Clay.

We lay at Red Clay until about 2 p. m. of Tuesday, the 23d. We then resumed our line of march and proceeded to Tiger Creek, on the road to Catoosa Platform, arriving about 10 p. m.

On Wednesday, 24th, about 9 a. m., broke camp and returned as far as Lee's house. Proceeded thence to Tunnel Hill on a reconnaissance, returning to Lee's house at 7 p. m.

On Thursday left camp, together with Colonel Dickerman's brigade, Fifteenth Army Corps, at 3 a. m., going in the direction of Dalton. Arriving within about 2½ miles of Buzzard Roost Gap, we found the cavalry under Colonel Long skirmishing with the enemy in the direction of the gap. Here, by direction of the general commanding, I formed the brigade in two lines, with Colonel Grose's brigade on

* Nominal list omitted.

the right, Colonel Dickerman's brigade being held as a reserve. At about 9.30 a. m. we advanced in line, engaging the enemy and driving him about 1½ miles, dislodging him from a densely wooded ridge. Owing, however, to a delay in the formation and advance of the extreme right of the line, consisting of a part of the Fourteenth Army Corps, it became necessary for us to halt on the side of the hill above referred to after having driven the enemy from it in order to avoid being flanked by the enemy, who now appeared in heavy force on our right, front, and left. Here we lay during the entire day, briskly skirmishing with the enemy and exposed to a heavy fire of artillery, which, however, did us no damage. In the mean time the battery attached to this brigade kept up a vigorous and effective fire on the enemy.

Both officers and men of the entire command, including the battery, behaved with great courage and coolness throughout the entire engagement.

For the position occupied by this brigade, as well as the topography of the country, reference is made to Exhibit A.* Our loss was 36, for particulars of which see Exhibit B.† Enemy's loss not positively known. We took 10 prisoners. Some were killed and a number wounded, and I am of the opinion that his loss was much greater than ours.

At 11 p. m. we started on our return to Lee's house, where we lay until 2 p. m. of the 26th. We then proceeded to Tunnel Hill, remained until 9 p. m., and then returned to the Stone Church, near Catoosa Platform.

Remained there until 1 p. m. of the 27th, when we took up our line of march for Blue Springs. We arrived at Ewing's farm at 7 p. m. and went into bivouac. At 7 a. m. we resumed line of march and reached Blue Springs at 12 m.

Officers and men without exception are entitled to the highest praise for the patient cheerfulness with which they endured the fatigues and exposures of the expedition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. E. CHAMPION,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Maj. W. H. SINCLAIR,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 6.

*Reports of Col. William Grose, Thirty-sixth Indiana Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.*

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., FIRST DIV., 4TH ARMY CORPS,
*Widow Burke's Farm, February* 24, 1864—8 p. m.

MAJOR: We returned here this moment (perhaps we are 3½ miles from you), and have stopped for the night. We approached near the railroad, 3½ miles west of Dalton, and met the enemy, infantry and cavalry.

Colonel Long had the advance, drove their cavalry 2 miles, when he met what the citizens said was Stewart's division of infantry in sight of and at the railroad. I advanced the infantry to his support,

*Not found. †Nominal list omitted.

checked and held the enemy back at a mile from the railroad until night, when we withdrew to here, leaving Colonel Long and one regiment of infantry 2 miles to our front. I don't believe there is much force of the enemy in our front, but too much for our small force. I am of the impression that double our force could have gained the railroad and held it. The enemy used no artillery. We fired 5 rounds.

I await orders.

Truly, I am,

W. GROSE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Major SINCLAIR,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Your note here; we are in no danger. Our loss very small; but three of Colonel Long's wounded fell into the hands of the enemy, which I much regret.

W. GROSE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

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HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., FIRST DIV., 4TH ARMY CORPS,
*Blue Springs, Tenn., February 29, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by this brigade in the recent seven days before Dalton:

I was ordered by the division commander, and marched to take part in the reconnaissance toward the enemy from this place on the morning of the 22d of February, 1864, with the Eighty-fourth Illinois, Colonel Waters; Seventy-fifth Illinois, Colonel Bennett; Thirty-sixth Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Carey; Thirtieth Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Hurd; Eightieth Illinois, Lieutenant-Colonel Kilgour, and Twenty-fourth Ohio, Lieutenant-Colonel Cockerill, with Battery H, Fourth U. S. Artillery, Lieutenant Heilman. Effective force, officers and men, including battery, 1,796. My brigade having the advance, and the Thirty-sixth Indiana marching in front, we moved toward Red Clay, or Council Ground, on the Georgia State line, a distance of 8 miles; arrived there at 12. 30 p. m. I was then ordered by the general commanding the division to move on the road toward Dalton, and if possible find the enemy. I advanced 3 miles to Wade's and found the enemy's pickets, drove them, and directed Captain Van Antwerp, with his company of Fourth Michigan Cavalry, to pursue them, which he did promptly 1½ miles. Upon the cavalry rejoining the brigade we returned to Red Clay and rested for the night.

February 23, marched with the division via Dr. Lee's house, 12 miles, to near Catoosa Springs, Ga., to make a junction with the Fourteenth Corps; arrived there about 9 p. m.

February 24, marched back east to Dr. Lee's house with division. I was here directed to move southeast toward Dalton, crossing the ridge 3 miles north of the place known as Tunnel Hill, with my infantry and one section of artillery, the latter under command of Lieutenant Stansbury. I passed the first and a second ridge to a road running south on the eastern base of the latter, along the road to Neal's farm, 6 miles from Dalton. At this point I made a junction with Colonel Long, in command of 600 cavalry. He was in position and skirmishing with the enemy. He had left Charleston, Tenn., passed around on Spring Place road, thence west by

Varnell's Station to the position at which I found him. Neal's farm is 6 miles northwest of Dalton, and 3 miles north of the Chattanooga and Dalton railroad. We both advanced on the wagon road south toward Glaize's house at the railroad. The ridge to our right at this place (Neal's house) soon changed to the southeast, and continues that direction until it passes beyond Davis' house, at the western base of the ridge, at which point the road crosses to the west side of the ridge. Five hundred yards beyond and southeast from the passage of the road over the ridge a gorge separates the ridge, through which a creek flows to the west, south of which the ridge bears to the west of south 1¼ miles to the railroad, at a point 3 miles north of west from Dalton, and at a point 1½ miles east of the gorge through the Rocky Face Ridge, or Buzzard Roost, forming a valley east of Rocky Face Ridge about 1½ miles wide, running from Davis' south to the railroad a like distance. We steadily advanced, Colonel Long taking the lead; drove the enemy from all the ridge north of the creek. Upon entering the valley Colonel Long's command passed to the right along the base of the ridge to the west. The Eighty-fourth and Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry were moved forward in the valley on the left of the cavalry, covering the slope of the eastern ridge with skirmishers thrown forward and to the left to cover the ridge and flank of the line. The Twenty-fourth Ohio was thrown forward in rear of the cavalry to support them. In this form we pressed the enemy to within 300 yards of the railroad, the command of Colonel Long driving the rebel infantry out of their camp immediately at the road. We continued in this position, skirmishing in front for some time, when lines of the enemy's infantry commenced an advance upon us. A few well-directed rounds from the section of artillery, with the aid of a heavy skirmish line, brought them to a halt and put them under cover. It was now near night, and learning from prisoners that Stewart's rebel division was in our front and Stevenson's near by, and not knowing that it was possible to have any assistance during the night, at dusk I withdrew the forces, leaving the cavalry and Eightieth Illinois Infantry at Neal's farm, and retired the residue to Widow Burke's house, reported the facts, and rested for the night.

February 25, at early day Brigadier-General Cruft, division commander, promptly came up with the other two brigades, and by his orders all moved forward to Neal's farm, the enemy having occupied the ridge where the road passes over toward Davis' house and for near a mile to the north. Our lines were soon formed, my brigade on the ridge to the right covering the summit and extending well over the western slope, the Thirtieth Indiana, Seventy-fifth and Eightieth Illinois in the front line from right to left, in the order I have named them; the Eighty-fourth Illinois, the Twenty-fourth Ohio, and Thirty-sixth Indiana in the second line. The Second Brigade (Colonel Champion) formed on my left, Colonel Long's cavalry extending his left, the other brigade (Colonel Dickerman) in reserve. It was now about 9 a. m. Major-General Palmer appeared on the field and wished to see me. I reported to him in front on the skirmish line. After consultation the general informed me that we would not advance until General Baird's division should arrive in the valley to my right.

About 11 o'clock all was ready, and I sounded the forward and the whole line moved off in splendid order. I rode with Colonel Bennett, Seventy-fifth Illinois, whose battalion was the battalion of di-

rection. Was upon the summit of the ridge with good opportunities to observe well the movements and grandeur of the scene to the right and left of the long blue lines moving to battle. A more grand sight my eye has never beheld. The direction was left oblique to keep the bearing of the ridge, my artillery following the lines closely and bearing part at every halt. We had not more than started before the skirmishers became closely engaged in all the woodland covering the ridge. The advance was steady and rapid, clearing the enemy from the ridge as we went.

When my lines had reached the creek at the gorge and beyond Davis' house in the valley, the skirmishers well advanced beyond, a staff officer rode up and informed me that General Palmer desired me to have halted on the ridge. I at once halted where I was. We remained in this position during the afternoon, having heavy skirmishing and artillery practice in the mean time, the enemy occupying the ridge and valley south of the creek that I had possession of the day before. With 10,000 more men to our left, Dalton no doubt would have fallen an easy prey to our arms. At night, the object of the reconnaissance being ended, we were ordered and with the division returned to Dr. Lee's farm on the west of the Tunnel Hill range of ridges, and 3 miles north of that place.

February 26, at about 9 a. m., I moved my command southeast 1 mile onto the ridge, 2 miles north of the tunnel, threw out some skirmishers onto the eastern slope, met some rebel cavalry that were attempting to follow us, and drove them out of sight and hearing. In the evening moved down southwest into the valley at Israel's house, rested until 9 p. m.; was ordered and marched westward to the Stone Church, near Catoosa Platform, and rested the balance of the night.

February 27, started at 12 m. and marched to Ewing's farm, north 9 miles, and camped for the night.

February 28, marched at 7 a. m.; arrived in camp at this place at 12 m. Command in good condition.

I can with pleasure refer to the prompt and willing co-operation and obedience of the officers and men of my command during this short campaign, and I regard myself as truly fortunate in being surrounded by first-class officers, both of infantry and artillery, and braver soldiers never went upon a battle-field. My staff officers and non-commissioned staff have alike my kindest regards for their efficient aid and assistance during the dangers and fatigue.

The following shows the casualties of the brigade while on the reconnaissance:

| Command. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Missing. | | Total. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| 75th Illinois, Col. J. E. Bennett | | | 1 | 6 | 1 | | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 80th Illinois, Lieut. Col. W. M. Kilgour | | | | 4 | | | | 4 | 4 |
| 84th Illinois, Col. L. H. Waters | | | | 3 | | | | 3 | 3 |
| 30th Indiana, Lieut. Col. O. D. Hurd | | | | | | 3 | | 3 | 3 |
| 36th Indiana, Lieut. Col. O. H. P. Carey | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 3 | 3 |
| 24th Ohio, Lieut. Col. A. T. M. Cockerill | | | | 12 | | | | 12 | 12 |
| Battery H, Lieut. W. H. Heilman | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Total | | 1 | 1 | 28 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 32 | 34 |

My sincere condolence and high appreciation of the merits of these braves attend them.

Major Watson, Seventy-fifth Illinois, wounded by a falling tree, effects of artillery firing, deserves notice as a noble officer. Hope he may soon recover.

For more detailed accounts I refer to the accompanying reports of regimental and battery commanders.

Exhibit A* herewith gives the topography of the ground in the vicinity of the contest.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, major, your humble servant,

W. GROSE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Maj. W. H. SINCLAIR,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 7.

*Report of Col. John E. Bennett, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry.*

HDQRS. SEVENTY-FIFTH REGT. ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
*Camp, Blue Springs, February 29,* 1864.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by this command in the recent movement upon Dalton, Ga.:

On the morning of the 22d instant, in obedience to orders previously received from Col. William Grose, commanding Third Brigade, First Division, Fourth Army Corps, at 8 a. m., I moved my command from this camp, in company with the balance of the brigade, marching in the rear of the Eighty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry into what is known as Red Clay Valley. Down this valley we marched until we reached the State line, or Red Clay Station, on the Tennessee and Georgia Railroad. Here the brigade was ordered forward to reconnoiter. With it I marched my command as far as Wade's plantation, a distance of some 3 miles beyond Red Clay Station. Here we remained a short time, when we countermarched back to station, where we encamped for the night.

February 23, remained in camp until 2.30 p. m., at which time we were again put in march by order of Col. William Grose, the column taking a southwesterly direction toward Ellidge's Mill, on the East Chickamauga Creek. This direction we maintained until we arrived at Dr. Lee's plantation, when the column filed to the right and went into Catoosa Springs at 9 p. m.

February 24, at 10 a. m., the column was again put in motion, the Third Brigade in advance and my command as before in rear of the Eighty-fourth Illinois Volunteers. Countermarched back to Dr. Lee's house, then filed to the right, taking a southeasterly direction toward Widow Burke's spring on the east side of Oak and Pine Ridge. We passed over the ridge. As we neared the brow of it the cavalry advance encountered the enemy's pickets and outposts, which were readily driven in by them. By direction of Colonel

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*Not found.

Grose, I formed line of battle along the brow of the ridge, where we remained a few minutes, when we were ordered to advance in line, marching in echelon on the left of the Eighty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with my left well retired. The detachment of the Fifty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which had previously been assigned to my command, under command of Lieut. J. H. Blodgett, of this regiment, was ordered to take position on the high eminence to our left to protect our left flank. In this position we marched until we reached Mr. Ault's house, in the valley below. Having no orders to proceed farther I remained in this position until sundown, when I withdrew my command and skirmishers and countermarched to Widow Burke's farm, where we encamped for the night.

February 25, by order of Colonel Grose, commanding brigade, I broke camp and moved back with the balance of the brigade to Oak and Pine Ridge. Here we formed another line of battle, with the Thirtieth Indiana on my right and the Eightieth Illinois on my left. We were supported by the Eighty-fourth Illinois, Twenty-fourth Ohio, and Thirty-sixth Indiana in our rear. I sent Company I (Captain Hale) in front as skirmishers. In this position we advanced. Soon our skirmishers were engaged with those of the enemy. Quite a brisk fire was kept up, and it required no little effort to dislodge them from their position at Davis' house. Here we had 2 men wounded in Company A. A little later Major Watson and Private James H. Thompson, of Company K, were severely wounded by the fall of a limb from a tree, which was cut off by a shell. Our line still advanced, driving the enemy before it. I followed, when according to instructions previously received from Colonel Grose, I took a position in the edge of a narrow belt of timber, my skirmishers occupying the opposite side of it commanding an open field from 80 to 100 rods in width. From this range continuous firing was kept up until night-fall, I relieving my skirmishers every two hours.

Our entire loss during the day was 8 wounded, including the major.

At 9 p. m. I received orders to move my regiment to the rear, my skirmish line being relieved by the Eighty-fourth Illinois Volunteers. We then marched back to the farm of Dr. Lee, which we reached about 2 a. m., February 26.

February 26, about 9 o'clock, we moved from Lee's house and took position on an eminence about a mile south. About 12 m. our pickets were attacked by rebel cavalry, which were readily repulsed. About 4 p. m. moved in position near the Second Brigade. At 9 p. m. broke camp and moved to the Stone Church, about 3 miles from Ringgold, where we arrived at 11 p. m. and camped for the night.

February 27, marched at 12.30 o'clock, and at 6 p. m. camped on Mr. Ewing's farm.

February 28, at 7 a. m., marched in rear of the whole column as rear guard, and arrived at this camp at 1 p. m.

To the officers and men of this command I am truly grateful for their extreme kindness and promptness in obeying every order, only vieing with each other in endeavoring to do the most and do it the best. I should be doing an injustice did I fail to make special mention of the gallant conduct of Captain Hale and Lieutenants Bannister, Parrott, and Newton, in command of skirmish companies. These officers have on several occasions been worthy of special mention. Private Oscar A. Seeley, Company C, is also worthy to be mentioned. He was seriously wounded in the arm and leg. Should he recover, he is worthy of be-

ing promoted for his true bravery and courage during this campaign and for other services which he has performed of a noble nature.

Below I append a list of casualties.*

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN E. BENNETT,
*Colonel Seventy-fifth Regiment Illinois Volunteers.*

Lieut. JAMES MCC. PRESTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 8.

*Report of Lieut. Col. William M. Kilgour, Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, commanding Eightieth Illinois Infantry.*

HDQRS. 80TH REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFTY.,
*Blue Springs, Tenn., March* 1, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of casualties and part taken of this command during the recent seven days before Dalton:

This command, 8 commissioned officers, 6 acting lieutenants, and 350 men, total 364 effective men, in pursuance of orders from Col. William Grose, commanding Third Brigade, left camp at Blue Springs, Tenn.; on the morning of February 22, at 7 o'clock, and with the brigade marched to Red Clay Station, on the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad. Here we halted one hour for dinner. At about 3.30 p. m. the command reached Parson Wade's, 4 miles from Red Clay. Here we came up with a small force of the enemy, who retreated in great haste on our approach. Here we formed a line of battle, the Eightieth Illinois forming the left wing of the advance line. After sending out scouts and pickets, who returned in an hour or so with 4 prisoners and reported the enemy gone, we moved back to Red Clay at sunset and camped for the night.

Next day we moved forward at 1 p. m., and reached camp near Catoosa Springs at 10 p. m.

On the 24th, we advanced toward Dalton, some 4 miles, when the Eightieth Illinois was detached from the brigade to support a section of the ——— battery,† which was left to hold the hill while the remainder of the brigade moved forward. Here we threw out three companies, B, C, and G, for pickets. At 3 p. m. we advanced to within 4 miles of Dalton, and halted to guard a pass in the hills and the roads, while the brigade moved on and engaged the enemy for about one hour. After dark the brigade moved back to a big spring, some 2 miles, leaving the Eightieth now in the advance on guard and picket duty, and within a few hundred yards of the enemy's line.

Next morning, the 25th, formed the left wing of the advance and moved forward a short distance in line of battle, when we halted and threw up breast-works, and sent forward Lieutenant Clendenin, Company A, as skirmishers, who sharply engaged the enemy's skirmishers, when the column moved forward, and on the double-quick routed the enemy, who fled in confusion before us. After advancing something over a mile, we halted to await further orders, our skirmishers again engaging the enemy. Here we were under a heavy cross-fire of the enemy's artillery and skirmishers, and also were ex-

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 1 officer and 7 men wounded.
† Battery H, Fourth U. S. Artillery.

posed to great danger from falling timber and limbs of trees and from the bad firing and premature bursting of shells from our own battery, planted on the hill in our rear. Here we again threw up breast-works, and remained till 10 p. m., when we received orders and withdrew and returned to camp near Dr. Lee's.

At 8 a. m., 26th, changed camp and sent Company H on picket, under command of Orderly Sergt. J. H. McFarlane. Scarcely had Adjutant Abernathy returned from posting the pickets till the enemy's cavalry, under Wheeler, Kelly, and Davidson made their appearance. Our pickets opened a galling fire upon them, and held them in check till the regiment came to their relief. The enemy were doubtless taken by surprise, and finding it rather unpleasant, if not quite unhealthy just then, retreated, leaving the Eightieth in possession of the field, where we remained till 9 p. m., then moved back and rejoined the brigade, and at 12 m. went into camp at Catoosa Springs.

The 27th, at 1 p. m., marched back to camp, a distance of 8 or 9 miles.

Sunday, the 28th, at 12 m., reached former camp at Blue Springs in good condition and fine spirits.

The officers and men of the regiment conducted themselves well, and showed great eagerness to rush upon the rebel hordes in their front, and manifested great dissatisfaction when they found it was not the intention of the move to bring on a general engagement. Our casualties were light. We had none killed and only 4 wounded, viz, First Sergt. John Criley, Company A, slightly in knee; Third Sergt. Robert Millburn, Company H, slightly in groin; Sergt. Fryar Jobling, Company C, slightly in arm; Private John M. Holland, Company B, slightly in arm.

I cannot close without making special mention of Lieut. Harvey Clendenin, Company A, and John H. Smith, Company B, for their gallant conduct and bravery on the skirmish line. I would also make special mention of the valuable services rendered me by Adjt. James R. Abernathy, whose gallant conduct and bravery entitle him to the highest praise.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

W. M. KILGOUR,

*Lieut. Col., 75th Illinois, Comdg. 80th Illinois Regiment.*

Lieut. J. McC. PRESTON,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 9.

*Report of Col. Louis H. Waters, Eighty-fourth Illinois Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTY-FOURTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY,

*February* 29, 1864.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report, for the information of the colonel commanding, the participation of my command in the recent affair near Dalton:

We left our camp near Cleveland on the 22d instant, joining our brigade near Blue Springs, with 20 officers and 293 enlisted men, and proceeded thence to the vicinity of Red Clay.

On the 23d, we moved to the vicinity of the Fourteenth Army Corps at Catoosa Springs; and on the day following with our brigade we proceeded on a reconnaissance, crossing Tunnel ridge about

1½ miles below Dr. Lee's farm, striking the road leading to the gap in Rocky Face Mountain, near Rogers' house, near to which we found Colonel Long's cavalry brigade.

Following this brigade within supporting distance we proceeded along the road in the direction of the gap, and soon came upon the enemy. Colonel Long's skirmishers steadily drove the enemy, my command covering his left, across the Gordon farm, and to within 1½ miles of the gap. My skirmishers exchanged a few shots with a small party of the enemy on my left, but at too great a distance to have much effect. At dark we withdrew some 2 miles.

On the following morning, having been joined by the other brigades of our division and by the division of General Baird, we again advanced, my regiment being on the right of the second line to the north side of Gordon's farm, where we lay during the rest of the day.

I had 1 man severely and 1 quite slightly wounded.

At 6 p. m. I was directed to relieve the entire skirmish line of our brigade, that our forces were to withdraw, and the Fortieth Ohio and Eighty-fourth Illinois under my command to cover the withdrawal. By 10.30 p. m. the whole force had withdrawn, and at 11.15 p. m. I gave the signal for my skirmishers to retire. We rejoined our battalion on the hill near Crow's house, and following the column at a distance of 2 miles or more, we reached Dr. Lee's farm at 3 a. m. that night.

On the following morning our brigade took position on the ridge we had crossed the morning before, and scarcely had we taken position before the enemy's cavalry came in sight and we were soon engaged in a brisk skirmish with them. Colonel Long's cavalry having been sent around our left to gain the enemy's rear, soon commenced skirmishing with them also, and in a few minutes the enemy were in retreat. During that night we moved to the vicinity of the Stone Church, and from thence to our present camp, which was reached on the evening of the 28th.

I had in addition to the 2 wounded before mentioned, 1 man of my pioneers wounded with an ax.

Below I append a list of the casualties.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. H. WATERS,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

[Lieut. J. McC. PRESTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*]

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No. 10.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Orrin D. Hurd, Thirtieth Indiana Infantry.*

HDQRS. THIRTIETH REGIMENT INDIANA VOLUNTEERS,
*Blue Springs, February* 28, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with circular of this date, I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by my command in the late skirmish before Dalton, Ga.:

My regiment, consisting of 11 commissioned and 190 enlisted effective strength, moved with the brigade from camp at Blue Springs, Tenn., on the 22d instant, at 7 a. m., toward Dalton, Ga.

Nothing of importance transpired until the morning of the 25th, when I was ordered to take position on the extreme right of the

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 3 men wounded.

brigade, my left resting on line and right of the Seventy-fifth Illinois. Skirmishers were thrown forward covering the front of my regiment, while the men in the line were engaged in erecting temporary works of logs and stone. At about 9 a. m. the line moved forward across the ridge and descended the slope. Here the skirmishers were hotly engaged while entering an open field, and in fact my whole regiment was exposed to the enemy's fire. My skirmishers now rallied on the right and dislodged the enemy from an old building which served him as an excellent protection. Here the line halted a few moments, when it moved forward on the double-quick, crossing the open field a distance of about 60 rods and taking a position under cover of a fence and some timber. The skirmishers, having advanced about 120 rods from the line, gained a strong position on a light slope. The firing now became general. At about noon I was ordered to advance with my command a short distance to support a section of artillery. Temporary works were again constructed, behind which my regiment remained. Nothing of importance transpired during the remainder of the day except skirmishing, in which my whole regiment was engaged at intervals. I received [orders] to withdraw at 10.30 p. m., which I did quietly, moving with brigade; after which nothing more occurred in which my regiment had part.

The casualties in my command were as follows: Corpl. Harrison Merrills, of Lieut. William H. H. Day's company, G; Privates Adam S. Krumer and Aaron S. Winegardner, of detachment Ninth Indiana Volunteers, commanded by Lieut. G. E. Murphy; all of whom were missing in action. The accompanying statements* from their company officer will show the facts relating to their cases. I am unable to make any report with reference to their capture.

I can but return my warmest thanks to the officers and men of my regiment for the faithful performance of their arduous duties while suffering the hardships and privations of seven days' duration.

Respectfully submitted.

O. D. HURD,
*Lieut. Col., Comdg. Thirtieth Regiment Indiana Volunteers.*

Lieut. JAMES MCC. PRESTON,
*Acting Aide-de-Camp.*

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No. 11.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Oliver H. P. Carey, Thirty-sixth Indiana Infantry.*

HDQRS. THIRTY-SIXTH INDIANA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
*Blue Springs, March* 1, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by the Thirty-sixth Indiana Volunteers in the recent actions near Dalton, Ga. Effective strength on leaving camp, 12 commissioned officers and 268 enlisted men.

February 22, was the advance regiment of the brigade, Companies A, F, and G being thrown forward as advance guard. No opposition was met until we arrived within about 12 miles of Dalton, where Company A of the advance came up to and engaged the

* Not found.

enemy's outpost pickets, 3 of whom were captured, the rest escaping by a hasty retreat. In the evening we returned to Red Clay, where we camped.

February 23, at 2 p. m., resumed the march, which was tedious and fatiguing on account of bad roads. Arrived in the vicinity of Catoosa Springs at 11 p. m.

February 24, advanced on the road to within 5 miles of Dalton, and in the skirmish of this day was posted on a hill covering the left and protecting the rear. Was not actively engaged although the skirmishers on the left were fired at, but at such long range that no execution could be done. Under orders from the brigade commander I withdrew my regiment from its position after dark a distance of 2 or 3 miles, where we rested until morning.

February 25, moved forward again, and when the lines of battle were formed about 2 miles from the position occupied by us the day before this regiment formed the left of the second line of the brigade. At a given signal we moved forward in line of battle over a very rough, uneven country, the skirmishers of the first line being constantly engaged with those of the enemy, and the occasional whistling of musket balls and crashing with shot and shell, sounds with which we had become familiar on other fields, told that we had a stubborn enemy to contend with. The line halted when we reached the hill from which we retired the evening before, and although at no time actively engaged 1 man was killed instantly and 2 wounded by the explosion of a shell. The men sheltered themselves as best they could in line, and yet the balls came in unpleasant proximity—but we suffered no further casualties. Without fires we laid in this position until 11 p. m., when, by orders from the brigade commander, I called the men to attention and retired on the road with the rest of the brigade 6 or 8 miles, where at 2 a. m. we sought rest until morning.

February 26, took position on slope of ridge awaiting orders, which soon came in the shape of picket-firing on our front. Moved to the crest of the ridge to resist an attack, which was not made. Marched down into the valley and on the Tunnel Hill road some 2 miles, where we thought we would rest for the night; but receiving orders we marched at 9 p. m., arriving near the Stone Church at 12 o'clock, and bivouacked until morning.

February 27 and 28, marched back to our old camp at this place.

The officers and men of my command deserve honorable mention for the prompt and ready willingness with which all orders were obeyed. Many of the men were almost without shoes, and yet without a murmur of complaint they marched four nights and every day of the seven while on this trip.

Had it been our lot to have gone into the battle, which we expected, I do not doubt but that the Thirty-sixth would have sustained the honor which Indiana has won by the daring gallantry of her tried and ever ready soldiers on many battle-fields, and have added new laurels to those already won during thirty months' service.

The casualties are as follows: Killed, Private Charles M. Hill, Company E. Wounded, Privates Lewis Langstone and John Jonas, Company H, both slight.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. P. CAREY,

*Lieut. Col., Comdg. Thirty-sixth Indiana Volunteers.*

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

*Third Brig., First Div., Fourth Army Corps.*

No. 12.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Armstead T. M. Cockerill, Twenty-fourth Ohio Infantry.*

HDQRS. TWENTY-FOURTH REGIMENT OHIO VOLS.,
*Blue Springs, Tenn., February 29, 1864.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report the part taken by my command, together with the casualties therein, in the recent movements before Dalton:

The regiment marched from its present camp on the morning of the 22d instant in obedience to orders from headquarters Third Brigade, First Division, Fourth Army Corps, with an effective force of 180 enlisted men and 13 commissioned officers. I was compelled to leave in camp 40 men, who were unable to march for the want of shoes.

The regiment remained with the brigade on the 22d and 23d, during which days nothing occurred outside the usual line of duty connected with the march.

On the morning of the 24th, this regiment was in the advance, and two companies were deployed as skirmishers, though we did not meet with any resistance, and continued to march until we reached the cavalry command of Colonel Long, who then took the advance, and, coming up to the enemy, engaged him. I was then directed to take my position on the right of the brigade, on the ridge fronting the valley. After remaining in line of battle a short time, I was ordered to advance down the road into the valley to the support of Colonel Long, and again took position on the right, near the brick building known as Ault's house. While in this position I sent forward a company as skirmishers, who fired a few shots at the enemy's advance. When ordered to withdraw, I left two companies in the valley to cover the movements on the road, and they rejoined the regiment after it went into camp.

On the morning of the 25th, the regiment marched in rear of the brigade. Afterward, when formed in line of battle, it was placed in the second line and in rear of the Seventy-fifth Illinois. Before advancing I had my men replenish their ammunition to 60 rounds per man. When the order to advance was given the regiment moved in the same order as designated in line of battle. During the halt, which was made near where the road passes into the valley, we were exposed to the fire of the enemy's sharpshooters, who were on our right and front. While in this position I had 3 men wounded. In the next advance I moved across the road on the western slope of the hill and halted, the left resting on the summit of the hill. While in this position the command became considerably exposed to the fire of the enemy's guns. I then moved to the right so that my right rested at the base of the hill, on the left of the road, and about 200 yards in advance of Davis' house. Before changing to my late position I had 9 men (all of Company B) disabled by the falling of a tree, which was cut off by a shell from the enemy's guns. I remained in the position to which I last moved until ordered to retire with the brigade, and marched in rear of the Thirtieth Indiana.

In the engagement of the 25th the regiment did not fire a single shot, being in the rear line throughout the whole day.

Nothing transpired of note after the 25th, and the regiment remained with the brigade, returning to its present camp on the afternoon of the 28th.

It is only necessary to state that the conduct of both officers and men were alike, each faithfully performing their various duties throughout the entire march.

The casualties of the regiment were as follows :*

All of which I respectfully submit.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. T. M. COCKERILL,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.*

Lieut. JAMES MCC. PRESTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Third Brigade.*

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No. 13.

*Report of Capt. Peter Simonson, Fifth Indiana Battery, Chief of Artillery, First Division, Fourth Army Corps.*

OFFICE CHIEF OF ARTILLERY,
HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, FOURTH ARMY CORPS,
*Blue Springs, Tenn., March* 1, 1864.

MAJOR : I have the honor to report herewith the part taken by the artillery of the division in the recent reconnaissance :

No artillery was used until the evening of the 24th, at which time one section of Battery H, Fourth Artillery, which accompanied the Third Brigade down the valley east of Buzzard Roost ridge, fired six rounds, checking the advance of the enemy, with whom we fought during the next day.

On the morning of the 25th, both batteries advanced with division in line of battle, each with its respective brigade, and promptly opened fire at the first appearance of the enemy's lines. They then advanced until our lines were opened on by the opposing artillery, when for the purpose of getting a cross-fire on the rebel artillery, I sent the Fifth Indiana Battery to the hill on the left of the road, and Battery H to the high ground well on the right of the road, which threw this battery in front of the lines of Baird's division.

The Fifth Indiana from the hill, by their firing, caused the enemy's battery to change position twice, after which the enemy took position behind the crest of opposing ridge, from which place we did not succeed in dislodging them. One section of Battery H was moved to an advanced position on our lines for the purpose of getting an enfilading fire along the ridge immediately opposite to us, but owing to the enemy having the advantage of the crest of the hill we did not succeed in driving them, although the section maintained its position under a severe fire throughout the day. During the heavy firing on the right of Baird's division the other four guns of Battery H materially assisted our troops (engaged there), although they were obliged to change their position once or twice to avoid the fire of the enemy's musketry.

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* Nominal list (omitted) shows 12 men wounded.

The Fifth Indiana during the remainder of the day kept up a desultory artillery duel with the enemy on the opposite ridge without apparently effecting anything on either side, the enemy's fire being at times very close but not effective. The firing was quite slow, owing to the woods obstructing the view, and we only being able to fire when we could see the smoke of the enemy's guns.

At night the artillery quietly withdrew with the balance of the command.

There were 452 rounds of ammunition expended during the action, 250 by the Fifth Indiana and 202 by Battery H.

The officers and men of the entire command behaved well. Lieutenant Warner, of Battery H, deserves special mention for the persistence with which he maintained his section in the exposed situation mentioned before. Also Lieut. G. H. Briggs, Fifth Indiana Battery, for his coolness under fire. I also desire to mention Lieut. H. E. Stansbury, who, owing to the scarcity of officers in Battery H, took command of a section of that battery on the 24th and managed it well.

The loss was 1 man severely wounded and 5 horses disabled.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER SIMONSON,

*Captain, and Chief of Artillery, First Div., 4th Army Corps.*

Maj. WILLIAM H. SINCLAIR,

*Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Div., Fourth Army Corps.*

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No. 14.

*Report of Lieut. William H. Heilman, Fifteenth U. S. Infantry, commanding Battery H, Fourth U. S. Artillery.*

HDQRS. BATTERY H, FOURTH U. S. ARTILLERY,
*Blue Springs, Tenn., February* 29, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that Battery H, Fourth U. S. Artillery, under my command, left camp at Blue Springs, Tenn., on Monday, the 22d day of February, 1864, and proceeded with the brigade to Red Clay, Ga., where I sent one section, commanded by Lieut. C. N. Warner, Fourth U. S. Artillery, with the brigade on a reconnaissance. It returned at sunset, and the battery remained at Red Clay until the following morning, February 23, when it proceeded to Catoosa Springs.

On the following morning, February 24, it returned to Lee's house, where it remained until the next morning, with the exception of one section, which I sent with the brigade on a reconnaissance to Buzzard Roost Gap, where it was brought into action in skirmishing with the enemy; no casualties.

On the morning following, February 25, I proceeded with the other two sections of the battery and joined section and brigade at Widow Burke's. I then proceeded to the gap on the left of Davis' house, where the whole battery was brought into action. I received orders shortly afterward to report with two sections to General Baird, which I did, leaving one section under the command of Lieut. C. N. Warner, Fourth U. S. Artillery, with the brigade. I immediately put my battery into position, and was engaged with the

enemy until sunset. I was compelled several times to change my position on account of the accuracy of the enemy's firing, and also to replace ammunition.

During the engagement 1 man was seriously wounded, 3 horses killed and 2 disabled.

I expended during the action with the whole battery over 100 rounds of ammunition. The firing was very correct, and the men behaved gallantly.

About 10 o'clock the same night, February 25, I reported to my brigade commander, when I returned with my battery and brigade to Lee's house.

On the following morning, February 26, I proceeded to Anderson's house, and in the afternoon to Israel's house, where I remained until 9 p. m., when I proceeded to Jack's house, remaining there until noon of the 27th, when I marched to Ewing's farm and encamped until the morning of the 28th, when the line of march was again taken up, and I returned to Blue Springs, Tenn., where the battery is now encamped.

List of casualties: Private Dempsey seriously wounded.

I am, colonel, very respectfully,

WM. H. HEILMAN,
*First Lieut., 15th U. S. Infantry, Comdg. Battery.*

Col. WILLIAM GROSE,
*Commanding Third Brigade.*

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No. 15.

*Congratulatory orders from Headquarters Fourteenth Army Corps.*

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 3. } HDQRS. FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS, DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, *Chattanooga, Tenn., March* 1, 1864.

The general commanding tenders his warmest thanks to the officers and soldiers engaged in the late offensive reconnaissance toward Tunnel Hill and Dalton. By their zeal, patience, and courage on the march and under the fire of the enemy, they have won a new and stronger claim to his confidence and respect. In discipline, the general conduct of all was unexceptionable. Still it is the duty of the general commanding to say there was some wanton destruction of property (the work of stragglers from the march and skulkers from the field), which, for himself and the soldiers under his command, he disavows and condemns. We are the soldiers of a constitutional government, and are fighting to restore to the people of these unhappy States who are groaning under the relentless, crushing despotism of traitors and usurpers, the blessings of free and equal laws. Jealous of the honor of American soldiers, the general trusts that every officer and soldier of his command will feel that disorder and disregard for the rights of the peaceable citizens of the country is as disgraceful as cowardice. No brave man will oppress the weak and defenseless.

By command of Maj. Gen. J. M. Palmer:

D. W. NORTON,
*Major and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 16.

*Report of Capt. Charles R. Case, Acting Signal Officer, commanding Signal Detachment, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. SIGNAL DETACHMENT, 14TH ARMY CORPS,
*Ringgold, Ga., February —*, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part the signal detachment, Fourteenth Army Corps, took in the reconnaissance toward Dalton, Ga.:

On the morning of the 22d of February, 1864, Lieutenants Howgate, Hollopeter, Quinton, Taylor, and myself, with 2 enlisted men each, left Chattanooga with Major-General Palmer, commanding reconnaissance, for the front, then at Rossville. On reaching the latter place the general ascertained that the troops had passed.

After halting a few moments the general started on. At Pea Vine Creek, 12 miles from Chattanooga, we came up to the head of the column, which had halted for dinner. Lieutenant Hollopeter and myself, with 4 men, went forward to a hill near by known as Pea Vine Ridge, to see if an intermediate station could not be established connecting Chattanooga and Ringgold. Arriving at the top we found that it could be accomplished. I ordered Lieutenants Hollopeter and Quinton to open this station, and keep a sharp lookout for flag at Ringgold. Lieutenants Howgate, Taylor, and myself moved forward with the column, and on reaching Ringgold found that communication could not be opened to the rear, the town being situated in a valley; but just in front, half a mile distant, White Oak Mountain reared its head, just the place for a station. We immediately took possession of it, and commenced preparations to open. I left Lieutenants Howgate and Taylor on the station, and went to headquarters Fourteenth Army Corps, then across the river in rear of town, in full view of the mountain station. At 7.30 p. m. I reported to General Palmer communication open to Chattanooga. During the night several important dispatches passed to and from department and corps headquarters.

The next morning the troops advanced through the gap in front of Ringgold, and into the valley between the latter place and Tunnel Hill. I closed station, directing Lieutenant Howgate to look for me on east side of mountain. General Palmer established headquarters near Catoosa Station. I opened with Lieutenant Howgate, thereby making a complete line of communication from the general in the field with the general commanding at Chattanooga.

During the day General Palmer occupied different positions as headquarters. The topography of the valley was such that there was no difficulty in staying with the general and keeping communication open. At night headquarters were in the same place that we were the previous evening. Communication was opened at once with Chattanooga. Lieutenants Ayers and Flook, with parties, reported to me in compliance with your order. I placed Lieutenant Flook on duty at headquarters station. The line as far as Pea Vine Ridge worked well.

On the morning of the 24th, the general moved headquarters in the valley near Lockridge's house, on Tunnel Hill road, where Lieutenant Flook opened with mountain station. The skirmishers were at this time some 2 miles in the advance. I therefore sent Lieutenant Ayers to the front to make observations and report as they advanced

through mountain station, as that station commanded almost the entire valley. I also instructed Lieutenant Howgate to keep a sharp lookout for him. In so doing (if Lieutenant Ayers should succeed in opening with mountain station) it would keep the general well posted as to what was being done on the front.

About 12 o'clock the general started to the front. The station was closed and Lieutenant Howgate was instructed to look for our flag at the front, Lieutenant Flook and myself accompanying the general to new headquarters at Davis' house, 1 mile from Tunnel Hill. About half mile to the rear and 500 yards to the left, Lieutenant Flook called mountain station, and in five minutes received acknowledgment.

Having heard nothing from Lieutenant Ayers, I directed mountain station to keep a sharp lookout, and, if possible, find his flag.

On going to the front a short time afterward, I saw Lieutenant Ayers, who was watching rebel signal station on Bald Knob of Tunnel Hill. I instructed him that as soon as our skirmishers took possession of the knob to occupy it, and, if possible, open with mountain station.

A number of messages passed during the afternoon. The line was worked well until 7 p. m., when the smoke from the camp-fires of General Baird's division, which was in rear of the station, cut off communication until morning. Lieutenant Howgate, however, forwarded all messages that came from Chattanooga to the front by messenger.

On the morning of the 25th, the smoke had become so dense (owing to the woods catching fire along the line) that it was impossible to communicate. At 1 p. m. Lieutenant Ayers reported to me at General Davis' headquarters, near Buzzard Roost, and informed me that in accordance with my instructions he had occupied the rebel signal station on Bald Knob, capturing a fly, canteen of turpentine, and some commissary stores, which the rebel signal officer was obliged to leave, but did not succeed in opening communication with mountain station.

The morning of the 26th, Lieutenant Ayers opened with mountain station from Tunnel Hill, the smoke having cleared away and the line worked well.

I learned from the general that General Cruft's division, which had previously occupied the left of the line, had fallen back to Catoosa Station, and as soon as night would cover the movements our entire force would fall back, having accomplished the object for which the expedition had started.

I sent Lieutenant Flook to re-open the station near Davis' house. At the same time I instructed Lieutenant Ayers to go to Catoosa Station, or as near as he could get to General Cruft's headquarters, and open with mountain station, thereby (if accomplished) making a complete line of communication from front to rear. At 9 p. m. the general left the town of Tunnel Hill for Catoosa Station. As we passed, Lieutenant Flook closed his station and joined me.

On arriving at headquarters I expected to find Lieutenant Ayers, but on inquiry found that he had attempted to open with mountain station, and not succeeding had left. Subsequently I ascertained from him that he had misunderstood my instructions and had gone to mountain station, where he remained until next morning. Lieutenant Flook, however, opened at once with mountain station, and reported communication open with Chattanooga.

Next morning broke station and went to Ringgold. The fog being very heavy, did not succeed in opening with mountain station until 10 a. m.

The general commanding informed me that General Baird's division would occupy Ringgold, and directed me to keep the line open to Chattanooga, and instruct the officers on mountain station to make close observation to the front of the movements of the enemy and report. To carry out the general's orders I placed Lieutenant Flook on Ringgold station, and ordered Lieutenant Howgate to report to me for instructions. After making all the arrangements that were deemed necessary, Lieutenant Ayers and myself started for Chattanooga, where we arrived the same evening, reporting to you in person.

During most of the time we experienced very unfavorable weather, and in consequence of the fog and smoke could only work at intervals, which fact the general was aware of, and made due allowance.

The general working of the line was good, with the exception of Missionary Ridge station. The causes why said station did not answer promptly the calls from Pea Vine station I have not investigated, but would respectfully refer to Lieutenant Hollopeter's report, report of messages, time, &c.

I also send reports of Lieutenants Howgate and Flook, and report of messages received and transmitted by them.*

In conclusion, it is but justice to state that the efficiency of the line was due to the prompt and energetic manner with which Lieutenants Howgate, Hollopeter, Quinton, Flook, and Taylor discharged their duties.

Respectfully submitted.

C. R. CASE,
*Captain and Acting Signal Officer.*

Capt. P. BABCOCK, JR.,
*Chief Signal Officer, Department of the Cumberland.*

[Inclosure.]

*Message report of stations on Thorman's Ridge, 1½ miles south of Graysville, from February 22 to March 1, 1864, worked by Lieutenants Hollopeter and Quinton.*

THORMAN'S RIDGE, GA.,
*February 22*, 1864.

Captain CASE:

General Thomas wishes the news from the front.

J. L. HOLLOPETER,
*Lieutenant and Acting Signal Officer.*

—

RINGGOLD, GA.,
*February 22*, 1864.

Captain BABCOCK:

We hold Ringgold; we have three stations; work one myself.

C. R. CASE,
*Captain, Comdg. Sig. Detch., 14th Army Corps.*

* Howgate's report not found.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*February* 22, 1864.

General PALMER:

Cruft occupies Red Clay, and has pushed a reconnaissance toward Varnell's Station. Report what you have discovered so far.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

—

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS,
*Chattanooga, February* 23, 1864.

General PALMER:

The general commanding has ordered the whole of General Davis' command to join you as soon as possible. Colonel Paul has been ordered to send all supplies possible, to be escorted by the Tenth Indiana Infantry. The bridge across Chickamauga will also be ordered to-day.

WILLARD,
*Captain and Aide-de-Camp.*

—

OFFICE SIGNAL OFFICER, DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*February* 23, 1864.

Captain CASE:

Have you received those messages for Palmer?

P. BABCOCK, JR.,
*Captain and Chief Signal Officer.*

—

SIGNAL DETCH., FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Ringgold, Ga., February* 23, 1864.

Captain BABCOCK:

I have received but two messages for General Palmer.

C. R. CASE.
*Captain, Commanding Detachment.*

—

TUNNEL HILL, GA.,
*February* 23, 1864.

General THOMAS:

Reconnaissance to Tunnel Hill completed. Enemy retreating before our skirmishers. About 400 cavalry, no infantry; one battery of artillery. Main position of our force between Ringgold Gap and ridge 3 miles this side of Tunnel Hill.

Loss 1 sergeant, killed, and 4 or 5 men wounded. Rebel works and quarters at Tunnel Hill abandoned.

WM. D. WHIPPLE.
*Brigadier-General and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Received at 10 p. m., called from 10 to 11 p. m., and then sent by courier.

QUINTON.

TUNNEL HILL, GA.,
*February* 23, 1864.

General THOMAS:

General Cruft reports himself going into camp at Catoosa Creek, 3 miles from the Platform; closed on Baird. Colonel Boone reports 10 miles south of Ringgold; came into Ringgold the same time our infantry reconnaissance did, capturing 9 prisoners. Colonel Long reports on Spring Place road, 3½ miles from Dalton; drove one infantry regiment out of their quarters; captured 12 prisoners. He thinks the enemy is leaving Dalton.

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
*Brigadier-General and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

—

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*February* 24, 1864.

General PALMER:

If you succeed in driving the enemy from Dalton, send back all the wagons you can spare at once, so that I can have them loaded with provisions and forage, and follow your command.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

—

TUNNEL HILL, GA.,
*February* 24, 1864—4.25 p. m.

General THOMAS:

Your dispatch received. We have just gained possession of Tunnel Hill; small loss.

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
*Brigadier-General and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

—

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Chattanooga, February* 24, 1864.

General WHIPPLE:

Just received a dispatch from General Grant. He wishes the enemy pushed as much as possible. Say [so] to General Palmer. I will try to get out to you to-morrow and bring some forage. Send me all information you get to-day as soon as possible, so that I can telegraph to General Grant.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

—

TUNNEL HILL, GA., *February* 24, 1864—midnight.
(Received Feb. 25, 3 a. m.)

General THOMAS:

Yours received at 3 p. m. to this place. Davis' division is now at Buzzard Roost confronting enemy, who has taken strong position. Lost to-day 2 killed and 10 or 12 wounded. Some fighting this evening on the Cleveland road, where Grose is. No report from them. Enemy in our immediate front, about 2 miles, with three batteries of artillery. All goes on very well. Have dispatched fully by courier.

WHIPPLE.

Communication closed on account of rain until the 26th, at which time communication was with station on Pea Vine, instead of Missionary Ridge.

—

TUNNEL HILL, GA.,
*February* 26, 1864.

Captain BABCOCK:
Drove the enemy but little yesterday.

C. R. CASE,
*Captain and Acting Signal Officer.*

—

RINGGOLD, GA.,
*February* 26, 1864.

General THOMAS:
Left Tunnel Hill at 9 o'clock. Troops retiring without trouble.

PALMER,
*Major-General, Commanding, &c.*

—

Weather unfavorable. Communication closed on account of rain and fog until March 1, 1864.

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No. 17.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Richard W. Johnson, U. S. Army, commanding First Division.*

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Graysville, Ga., March* 27, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of the division under my command in the recent demonstrations before Dalton. This report has been delayed under the belief that none would be required, as the corps commander was present and superintended the movements in person:

The movement having been decided upon, I received an order to get my division in readiness to march, with three days' rations. A very few wagons were allowed each brigade, the teams of which were to be supplied with three days' forage. Owing to the bad condition of my horses it was deemed advisable to take only one section without the caissons.

At early dawn, February 22, the division moved in the direction of Rossville, with King's brigade in advance, followed by Carlin's, which latter was followed by the Third Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hambright. Arriving at Rossville we took the direct Ringgold road, preceded by a part of Colonel Harrison's regiment, Thirty-ninth Indiana Mounted Infantry. On arriving at the Chickamauga a temporary bridge was constructed over which the men passed, while the artillery, wagons, &c., forded at a point near by. This proved to be a very tedious operation, and delayed our movements a good deal. On arriving at Ringgold it was found to be occupied by only a small picket of the enemy, which fled on the appearance of Colonel Harrison with his mounted men. The division entered and took possession of the village. The gap beyond

the town was picketed and held by King's brigade. In posting his pickets on the high bluff south of the pass Lieutenant Ayres, adjutant Nineteenth [U. S.] Infantry, was captured by a few of the enemy, who fled with him in the direction of Tunnel Hill.

February 23, the mounted force was again placed in advance, followed by my division, led by Hambright's brigade.

At Catoosa Station, 3 miles south of Ringgold, the rebel cavalry made a feeble stand, but were driven from point to point, continually forced back until they reached the neighborhood of Tunnel Hill, where they were re-enforced, and greatly outnumbered our mounted force. Carlin was moved forward to support Harrison with his brigade, which for the occasion was re-enforced by the Nineteenth Illinois to replace the Second Ohio, which had been temporarily withdrawn, by direction of the corps commander, to occupy a hill to the right, to guard that flank. This duty, like all duty required of General Carlin, was performed promptly, and with his usual good judgment he made the following dispositions when he arrived near the enemy: The four regiments of his brigade were formed in single line of battle, the Eighty-eighth Indiana on the right of the road, the Ninety-fourth Ohio, Tenth Wisconsin, and Nineteenth Illinois on the left.

As soon as his skirmishers were thrown out, the command moved forward, Harrison moving on the road. Soon the skirmishers became engaged, but the resistance was feeble. The rebels continued to fall back for about 2 miles, where they had constructed temporary breast-works of rails, and here they determined on a vigorous resistance.

Carlin ordered the Eighty-eighth Indiana to advance under cover of the woods toward the right and rear of the line of works, and as soon as their movements were discovered the enemy saw he was flanked, fired one volley, and ingloriously fled. The pursuit was continued to Tunnel Hill. The infantry was halted and Harrison at the head of 25 of his men charged and drove about 500 cavalry through town and to the hills beyond, from which the enemy opened upon us with artillery. Not knowing the extent of the force in that neighborhood, and it being near dark, and having one brigade only, I deemed it advisable to push the pursuit no farther, but to fall back to the main body near Catoosa.

February 24, the division again moved to Tunnel Hill, Carlin in advance, followed by King and Hambright. On arriving near Tunnel Hill the enemy opened upon us with artillery. I had none to reply, as, owing to the neglect of Lieutenant Harris, commanding the section of First Michigan Artillery,* his animals, being without forage, had become so weak that I was compelled to leave the section at Ringgold. As soon as the firing commenced I halted Carlin's brigade, and sent Hambright and King to the left to take possession of the heights to the right and left of the position held by the artillery. While these preliminaries were being arranged the major-general commanding corps arrived, who approved of my dispositions and sent a brigade of Davis' division to the left of King. The position was easily taken, and the enemy was soon in full retreat, followed by Davis' division, supported by King's brigade. Here I encamped Carlin and Hambright for the night. February 25, constant skirmishing kept up all day between Davis and rebel skirmish lines, and late in the evening I ordered Hambright and King to relieve General Davis' line. Carlin was held in reserve.

*Battery A, First Michigan Light Artillery.

About 12 o'clock at night, the rebel pickets advanced, and there was considerable firing, in which some men were killed and wounded. Among the latter was Col. Geza Mihalotzy, the gallant colonel of the Twenty-fourth Illinois. I regret to report that he has since died.

February 26, we remained holding our position, keeping up constant firing with our sharpshooters. At night I received an order to fall back to Catoosa.

February 27, was ordered to march to and take post at Tyner's Station, which place I reached same day.

The officers and men of my command discharged every duty faithfully, and to each and all my thanks are due.

Loss: Commissioned officers killed, 1; enlisted men killed, 6; total killed, 7; enlisted men wounded, 6; total wounded, 6; total killed and wounded, 13.

I transmit herewith the sub-reports.

If I fully understand the object of the movement it was eminently successful. From prisoners captured I learned that several divisions sent to operate against General Sherman were ordered back to Dalton, and the rebel army under Johnston was in full force and prepared for battle. Sherman was relieved and enabled to finish his undertaking satisfactorily.

Very respectfully,

R. W. JOHNSON,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.*

Maj. D. W. NORTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 18.

*Report of Brig. Gen. William P. Carlin, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., FIRST DIV., 14TH ARMY CORPS,
*Graysville, Ga., March 27,* 1864.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to instructions from Brig. Gen. R. W. Johnson, commanding the division, I have the honor to report the part taken by the troops of this brigade in the offensive reconnaissance toward Dalton, Ga., from Chattanooga, in February last.

Leaving the latter place on the 22d of February, we marched to Ringgold, Ga., and camped.

On the 23d, I moved through the gap to a point near Catoosa Station, where I received verbal instructions from Major-General Palmer to advance on the Dalton road and support Colonel Harrison's mounted infantry (Thirty-ninth Indiana), and to go on to Tunnel Hill and see what was there. About 2 miles beyond Catoosa Station I met Colonel Harrison falling back before superior numbers of rebel cavalry, under General Wheeler. Finding himself supported, Harrison immediately resumed his former line in front of the enemy, where he had been skirmishing for some time. My command was here deployed in line of battle and ordered to advance. The Eighty-eighth Indiana (Colonel Briant), was on the right of the road; the Ninety-fourth Ohio (Colonel Bassford), Tenth Wisconsin (Captain Roby), and Nineteenth Illinois (Lieutenant-Colonel Raffen) on the

left. We drove the enemy steadily for about 2 miles, where a barricade of rails was discovered about 400 yards in front, from which a heavy volley was opened on my line. To avoid the necessity of advancing my men over an open field under so short a fire, I directed Colonel Briant, Eighty-eighth Indiana, to move rapidly through a skirt of timber on the right and seize a hill to the right and rear of the enemy, which would have cut off the retreat of the enemy on the main road, or would compel him to fall back from his breast-works to prevent such a result. The movement of Colonel Briant was discovered by the enemy, who immediately abandoned his strong position and retreated toward Tunnel Hill, closely pursued by us.

On arriving within 500 yards of the town, Colonel Harrison, with only 25 men, charged on the enemy and put him to a most disgraceful flight through the town of Tunnel Hill. This was the most gallant and handsome exploit of cavalry I ever witnessed. Had it occurred in the early days of the war it would have immortalized the gallant men engaged in it. Though no large force was discovered at tunnel, the strength of the position, the fortifications, and the certainty that there were some troops behind the works, rendered it advisable not to make an attack with only four small regiments—less than 1,000 men. The enemy opened a battery on us as soon as we came in view. General Johnson, commanding division, being present, directed me to return with my command to the main force, and I accordingly encamped near Catoosa that night.

My loss in this affair was 2 men severely wounded in the Eighty-eighth Indiana, and 1 (First Sergt. James Jackson), Company B, Nineteenth Illinois, killed, and 1 private wounded in the Tenth Wisconsin.

On the 24th, we advanced again to Tunnel Hill, where we remained inactive till near night, when we crossed the hill and camped.

On the 25th, I advanced toward Buzzard Roost Gap, being a reserve all that day. In conformity with the plan of General Johnson, submitted to me, I occupied a position till all the forces in my front had been withdrawn to the rear, and acted as rear guard to Catoosa.

On the 26th, I marched to Tyner's Station and camped.

The Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry (Col. A. G. McCook) having been detailed on the 23d to hold the ridge south of Ringgold Gap, the Nineteenth Illinois was assigned to my command for the special service of the advance on tunnel on the 23d.

It is with great pleasure I can heartily testify to the gallant conduct of all the officers and enlisted men under my command, including the Nineteenth Illinois Infantry and Thirty-ninth Indiana Mounted Infantry. Capt. R. J. Waggener, assistant adjutant-general, and Surg. B. F. Miller, acting brigade surgeon, both on my staff, merit my gratitude for their efficiency in their respective departments.

The following is a list of the killed and wounded:*

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. CARLIN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Capt. E. T. WELLS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*Nominal list (omitted) shows 1 killed and 3 wounded.

No. 19.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.*

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*McAfee's Church, Ga., March 22, 1864.*

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this division during the recent reconnaissance against the enemy's position in the vicinity of Dalton, Ga.:

Previous to the reception of orders preparatory to the commencement of these movements, the brigades composing the division were posted as follows: The First Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. J. D. Morgan, occupied its position in the permanent camp of the division at this place. The Second Brigade, commanded by Lieut. Col. Carter Van Vleck, was posted at Tyner's Station, guarding the railroad to Knoxville. The Third Brigade, commanded by Col. Dan. McCook, occupied a position at Chickamauga Station.

On the morning of the 23d February, in compliance with orders received during the night from department headquarters, I concentrated the First and Third Brigades at Ringgold, and reported to Major-General Palmer, commanding, during the afternoon. Later in the evening, in compliance with instructions from department headquarters, the Second Brigade was ordered to join the division, which it promptly did during the night.

On the morning of the 24th, in compliance with instructions from the general commanding, I ordered the Second Brigade to hold the gap and approaches to Ringgold, and moved forward with Morgan and McCook in support of General Johnson's division, in the advance upon Tunnel Hill. On reaching Tunnel Hill, General Johnson found the enemy occupying the ridge in rear of the town. A field battery, which they had posted in a strong position on the road leading to Dalton through Tunnel Hill, opened fire with considerable effect upon the head of the column, and gave indications that our advance would be strongly disputed at this point. After making a reconnaissance of the position, I asked and obtained permission from General Johnson to move with Morgan's brigade and take possession of the hill, some one-half to three-fourths of a mile north of the tunnel. While executing this movement, the commanding-general appeared upon the ground and gave it his approval.

Morgan's skirmishers soon took possession of the hill, and, wheeling upon their right flank, drove the enemy's skirmishers down the ridge in the direction of Buzzard Roost. This movement, by turning the enemy's position, together with the assistance of a section of the Second Minnesota Battery, placed in position by Captain Hotchkiss, chief of artillery, for that purpose, caused the enemy to retire in considerable haste. In this movement General King was ordered by General Johnson to support me with his brigade should an emergency arise requiring it. The execution of this movement threw Morgan in the advance, with his skirmishers closely pressing the retiring enemy.

The general features of the pass through which the road at this point runs indicated strong defensive positions for the enemy in advance of us, and I ordered General Morgan to push his skirmishers well to the front, and to move forward his main lines in this manner in pursuit. McCook, in compliance with orders, came promptly to the

front and closed up well on Morgan, just in time to receive a share of the enemy's artillery fire, which had by this time checked the advance. The enemy's fire was exceedingly well directed, his shells bursting with great accuracy near our lines while moving forward to the different positions assigned them.

Accompanied by the brigade commanders I proceeded to the front and ordered the skirmishers to push forward and take possession of a range of mound-shaped hills which intervened between us and the enemy's position, and through which the roads meander at Buzzard Roost. These hills were soon carried by our skirmishers, both on the right and left of the road. The enemy's skirmishers yielded with little resistance. From these hills the enemy's position was easily reconnoitered, and from the fire of his artillery the position of two strongly posted field batteries was plainly discovered.

The sun was now near setting, and an attempt to push our advance farther could not be done without bringing on a general engagement, which the lateness of the hour and the nature of the expedition, as understood by me, forbade. Making such disposition of the troops as I thought would secure them from the enemy's batteries and at the same time enable them to resist an attack, I ordered the brigade commanders to put out strong pickets and to place the troops in bivouac for the night.

Reporting to the general commanding the result of the day's operations, I received orders to hold my position, supported by Johnson's division, while Baird's and Cruft's divisions, under the immediate command of the general commanding, prosecuted the reconnaissance on the east side of Rocky Face Ridge on the following morning. It was thought this movement would turn the enemy's position at Buzzard Roost and enable our forces to unite south of Rocky Face Ridge.

Brisk skirmishing commenced between the picket-lines early in the morning and was kept up with considerable vigor during the forenoon, notwithstanding the thick smoke and haze which obscured the sight at very short range. The sound of Baird's and Cruft's cannon announced their arrival on the opposite side of the ridge early in the forenoon and gradual approach to the enemy's position in my front.

About 3 p. m. the increase of firing seemed to indicate what might be a general engagement, and in order to be sure that my troops were not being held at bay by the enemy's skirmishers only, while his main forces had concentrated on Baird and Cruft, I determined to throw forward strong lines of skirmishers and feel of his position.

Giving the necessary order to the brigade commanders, I took a commanding position which enabled me to see the general movements of the troops as well as the supposed position of the enemy. A battery commanded by Captain Harris, of General Baird's division, had opened fire for some half an hour previous from an excellent position in front of the enemy's rifle-pits, but had, after several attempts, failed to elicit a reply. The heavy line of skirmishers thrown forward by Morgan on the left and McCook on the right soon became warmly engaged, the enemy resisting their strong points with great vigor. Under the immediate direction of the brigade commanders the lines were pressed forward with great spirit until the enemy's rifle-pits and batteries were being brought within range of our musketry. The continued advance and well-directed fire of the skirmishers, and the persistent manner in which a section from

each of Hotchkiss' and Harris' batteries kept up their fire upon the enemy's rifle-pits, at length brought a response both from his artillery and infantry, disclosing his position completely. Three batteries opened fire from different well-selected points and operated for several rounds with great fierceness upon our artillery and skirmish lines without, however, doing much execution except upon that part of the line composed of the Tenth Michigan and Sixtieth Illinois Regiments. These regiments formed the attacking party on the left, and became considerably exposed to an enfilading fire of artillery, as well as a direct fire of infantry in front. They lost heavily, but their fire told with charming effect upon the enemy, and caused him a loss fully equal to their own. The gallant attack and excellent manner in which they fell back under fire proved them worthy of the title of "Veteran Volunteers," which they had just assumed by re-enlisting.

McCook's skirmishers on the right were better protected by the hills and timber, and lost less heavily. They were well commanded; also their conduct was exceedingly complimentary to both officers and men.

The remainder of the evening was spent in a well-matched contest of sharpshooting by the skirmish lines until dark. The artillery subsided into a similar contest, and was well maintained by our four pieces against considerable odds.

Captain Harris, commanding one of General Baird's batteries, a section of which was hotly engaged during the whole afternoon, was severely wounded and carried from the field. He proved himself a gallant officer and worthy commander. His officers and men, as did those of the Second Minnesota Battery, manned their guns with great coolness and promptness. I regret to report that some of their ammunition was not of the best quality.

At dark two brigades of General Johnson's division relieved my troops in the front hill, thus enabling them to get rest and refreshments, which they had been almost entirely deprived of for thirty-six hours.

The enemy's position, as disclosed by this demonstration, was a very strong one, and completely commanded the gap. The force immediately in our front proved to be three field batteries strongly posted, supported by Stewart's division of infantry. The natural advantage of the enemy's position at this point would render an attempt to carry it exceedingly hazardous.

Major-General Thomas, commanding the department, arrived at my headquarters late in the evening, and the following morning (the 26th) visited with me the front lines.

About 9 a. m. Colonel Boone, commanding a part of the cavalry on our right, reported with his command from Nickajack Gap, with information that Cleburne's division had driven our cavalry from this place and taken possession of it. Colonel Boone was immediately ordered back in that direction to watch the enemy's movements, and to report frequently during the day, which he did. No advance was discovered.

The troops occupied the position at Buzzard Roost until night, skirmishing occasionally throughout the day with the enemy's pickets and sharpshooters. At dark, in compliance with orders from General Palmer, I withdrew my entire command and marched to Ringgold.

The following day (27th), in compliance with orders, I left the Sec-

ond Brigade, now commanded by Col. J. G. Mitchell, to report to General Baird, and marched with Morgan's and McCook's to our camp at this place, arriving late in the evening.

On the 29th, Colonel Mitchell, being relieved from duty at Pea Vine Creek, reported and went into camp with his command.

During these active operations my command, from brigade commanders down, gave additional proofs of their zeal and efficiency. Wherever the foe was met in the several sharp skirmishes which distinguished this reconnaissance the most enthusiastic and chivalrous spirit was manifested. My loss in killed, wounded, and missing is shown in the accompanying report.

The report of the brigade and such of the regimental commanders as have been received are herewith transmitted, and attention asked to them for many details necessarily omitted in this.

Among the wounded and captured was Lieutenant-Colonel Dickerson, Tenth Michigan Regiment, a gallant and distinguished officer. His loss is deeply felt by his regiment, having long been its commander.

Throughout the expedition the conduct of the different staff officers was characterized by promptness and zeal, yet I cannot close without alluding to the conspicuous gallantry of Captain Wiseman, assistant adjutant-general on General Morgan's staff, so often exhibited in the performance of his duty at the front in the skirmish line.

The efficiency of my own staff, so often tested on many hard fought fields, was, whenever occasion required it, promptly exhibited. To them and to the brigade commanders and their staffs, one and all, I would respectfully tender my grateful thanks for their co-operation and assistance throughout the campaign.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEF. C. DAVIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.*

[Maj. D. W. NORTON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*]

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*List of Casualties in Second Division, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

| Regiment. | Killed. | Wounded. | Missing. | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10th Michigan Volunteer Infantry | 13 | 35 | 17 | 65 |
| 60th Illinois Volunteer Infantry | 1 | 34 | 9 | 44 |
| 85th Illinois Volunteer Infantry | 3 | 11 | ..... | 14 |
| 86th Illinois Volunteer Infantry | 1 | 7 | ..... | 8 |
| Total | 18 | 87 | 26 | 131 |

## No. 20.

*Report of Brig. Gen. James D. Morgan, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., SECOND DIV., 14TH ARMY CORPS,
*Near Rossville, Ga., March* 16, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith my report of the part taken by my command in the recent reconnaissance toward Dalton:

At 8 a. m. on the morning of the 23d of February, in compliance with verbal orders received from division headquarters, with eight

companies of the Sixtieth Illinois, Colonel Anderson commanding, and eight companies of the Tenth Michigan, Lieutenant-Colonel Dickerson commanding (two companies from each of these regiments having been ordered the day before, under the command of Major McDonald, Sixtieth Illinois, to McLemore's Cove to watch the movements of the enemy, said to be marching in that direction), moved out on the direct road to Ringgold, bivouacking for the night on the west side of the East Chickamauga.

At daylight of the 24th, moved out on the road to Tunnel Hill, on the left of Colonel McCook's brigade. Moving cautiously forward to within 1½ miles of that place, deployed in line of battle on the right of the road, relieving a brigade of the First Division, Colonel McCook forming on my left.

At 1.30 p. m. were ordered by General Davis in person to move to the left and gain the ridge in rear of Tunnel Hill. This movement was promptly and successfully executed. This gave my command the advance, and after passing through the works and deserted camps of the enemy, pushed forward into the valley, the Sixtieth Illinois flanking to the left to the railroad, by direction of division commander. Arriving at the former headquarters of the rebel General Cleburne, the column was halted for a short rest. Skirmishers were again thrown out and advanced toward Mill Creek (or Buzzard Roost) Gap. Here the enemy were found strongly posted, and opened a brisk fire of musketry and artillery. The sun now being down and men much fatigued, after posting a strong guard, moved my command to the left and bivouacked for the night in the valley to the north and west of Rocky Face Ridge.

Before daylight on the morning of the 25th, took up a strong position in the gap on the left of the railroad, Colonel McCook on my right. The morning was very smoky, and it was late before any attempt was made to feel of the enemy in front. At 9 a. m. skirmishers were deployed, and during the day were briskly engaged and successfully driving the enemy from point to point until 4 p. m., when, by order of the general commanding division, was directed to make a strong demonstration, and, if possible, make the enemy develop his line and strength. Moving my command forward to a strong position on a spur of Rocky Face, I ordered Colonel Anderson to move forward with six companies of his regiment, four deployed as skirmishers and two in reserve, and push forward to a point in front designated to him. This was promptly executed. No sooner had this force entered the valley than a terrible fire of infantry and artillery was opened upon them from right, left, and front. All having been accomplished for which the movement was intended, Captain Wiseman, my assistant adjutant-general, was ordered to promptly recall them, but they had nobly gained the point to which they were ordered. Captain Stinson, my provost-marshal, was at the same time directed to order Lieutenant-Colonel Dickerson to move with his command briskly to the right to cover the retreat of the Sixtieth, when, to my astonishment, I was informed that the Tenth Michigan had pushed forward with the Sixtieth. I also sent for the One hundred and twenty-fifth Illinois, of Colonel McCook's brigade, which I had placed in position in the morning by direction of the division commander, and that regiment had been moved. My command was promptly reformed and in position and well to the front.

My loss under this severe fire was heavy (a list of casualties herewith inclosed, marked A).

At sundown was relieved by General King's brigade (regulars), First Division, and took up a position to the left and rear of his line, remaining there during the 26th (Major McDonald arriving during the night with four companies) until after dark, when, by order of division commander, marched to our camp of the 23d, west of the East Chickamauga, arriving there at 2 a. m. on the 27th. At 2 p. m. moved to brigade camp, near Rossville, in charge of corps train.

In closing this report I wish to bear willing testimony to the universal good conduct of officers and men during the reconnaissance. The cool and gallant conduct of all under a severe and destructive fire is worthy of all praise, and I also wish to mention that both these regiments had re-enlisted as veterans and expected furloughs for home the day they moved to the front.

Colonel Anderson and Lieutenant-Colonel Evans, of the Sixtieth Illinois, were active and prompt in the discharge of their respective duties; also Lieutenant-Colonel Dickerson and Major Burnett, of the Tenth Michigan; and I can overlook the error of Lieutenant-Colonel Dickerson of moving without orders from the motive that caused it and in his gallant conduct while under fire, and regret his being a prisoner.

The members of my staff, Captain Wiseman, assistant adjutant-general; Captain Richman, acting assistant inspector-general; Captain Stinson, provost-marshal, and Lieutenant Coe, acting assistant quartermaster, were all active in the discharge of their respective duties. I recommend them all as meritorious and efficient officers.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES D. MORGAN,
*Brigadier-General.*

Capt. T. W. MORRISON.
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure A.]

*List of casualties referred to in report.*

| Regiment. | Killed. | Wounded. | Missing. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10th Michigan Infantry | 13 | 35 | 17 |
| 60th Illinois Infantry | 1 | 34 | 9 |
| Total | 14 | 69 | 26 |

## No. 21.

*Report of Col. Daniel McCook, Fifty-second Ohio Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.*

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., SECOND DIV., 14TH ARMY CORPS,
*March* 17, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by my brigade in the late reconnaissance toward Dalton:

My brigade joined the division via Graysville at Ringgold upon the 23d of February.

On the 24th, with the division, it advanced as far as Buzzard Roost Gap, where the enemy were found in force. That night the Eighty-sixth and Eighty-fifth Regiments Illinois Volunteers were put on picket to the right of the railroad. Strong pickets were also thrown out on the right flank.

The next morning an advance of the skirmish line was ordered. Although the sun and haze were in favor of the enemy we steadily pushed them all day, until we got within 75 yards of their barricades, our skirmishers keeping three or four cannon from being used by the enemy. About the middle of the afternoon, in reply to some of our artillery, the rebels opened a very heavy fire. Under this the reserves of the Eighty-sixth and Eighty-fifth Regiments were moved up to the skirmish line. Our artillery was so admirably served that it managed to kill one man at least, who belonged to the Eighty-fifth Illinois (vide Colonel Dilworth's report). The skirmishers were forced so far front that they were subject to a rear, flank, and front fire, yet they held their advanced position until relieved by General Johnson's men after dark. I commend their gallantry, coolness, and tenacity, under such galling circumstances, to my superiors. Every man and officer did his duty.

Colonels Dilworth and Magee and Major Fahnestock are recommended for bravery and judgment on the field. To the members of my staff, Captains Anderson and Fellows, Lieutenants Rogers and Batchelder, I am under many obligations for dash, promptness, and daring.

My loss was 4 killed, 18 wounded, none missing.

Only six companies of the command fired a shot, and only sixteen companies under musketry fire. The enemy was in heavy force in our immediate front.

Inclosed please find the regimental reports* of Colonels Dilworth and Magee.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL McCOOK,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. T. W. MORRISON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 22.

*Report of Lieut. Henry R. Flook, Acting Signal Officer, Third Division.*

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, 14TH ARMY CORPS,
*Ringgold, Ga., February 29, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of my operations during the late reconnaissance made by the Fourteenth Army Corps, under the command of Maj. Gen. J. M. Palmer:

At 10 a. m., February 23, I received a verbal order from Captain Babcock, chief signal officer, Department of the Cumberland, to proceed to Ringgold, Ga., and report to Capt. C. R. Case for duty. Immediately upon my arrival there I was placed on duty at headquarters station, and during the night transmitted two very important messages from Brigadier-General Whipple, chief of staff to Major-General Thomas, at Chattanooga.

On the morning of the 24th, we moved front and opened communication with the station on White Oak Mountain from a house on the Tunnel Hill road, about 1 mile south of the Stone Church. A few

* Not found.

messages of minor character were sent and received at this station, and the line was working well. At noon we moved forward to Terrill's farm, 1 mile this side of Tunnel Hill, and again opened with Lieutenants Howgate and Taylor on White Oak Mountain. At this station we remained until the following day, during which time several important messages were received and transmitted.

During the p. m. of the 25th, we moved to the ridge south of Tunnel Hill, but owing to the dense fog and smoke failed to open communication until the following morning.

In the evening of the 26th, I was ordered to the station on Terrill's farm, and at dark again opened with station on White Oak Mountain, but sent or received no official messages. The troops were now retiring from Tunnel Hill, and I was ordered to Catoosa railroad station, where I arrived at 10.50 p. m., and from there transmitted one important message to Major-General Thomas.

The following morning I moved into Ringgold and established station at General Baird's headquarters, at which place I opened with Lieutenants Howgate and Taylor, and was directed to remain here until further orders. During the time the reconnaissance was being made we experienced very unfavorable weather for signaling, and in consequence of the fog and smoke could only work at intervals, which fact the commanding general was aware of and made due allowance.

General Baird, commanding division, now at this place, expresses himself well pleased with the reports that have been sent to him from the station of observation on White Oak Mountain.

I take pleasure in noticing Lieutenants Howgate and Taylor (the only officers with whom I communicated), who, by their vigilance and promptness in replying to calls, proved their ability and efficiency as signal officers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. FLOOK,
*First Lieutenant, Acting Signal Officer.*

Capt. C. R. CASE,
*Commanding Signal Detachment.*

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No. 23.

*Report of Brig. Gen. John B. Turchin, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Third Division.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., THIRD DIV., 14TH ARMY CORPS,
*Ringgold, Ga., March* 1, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the 22d day of February, 1864, my brigade, consisting of the Eleventh, Eighty-ninth, and Ninety-second Ohio, and Eighty-second Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in all 1,180 men, marched from Chattanooga to Ringgold, Ga., and encamped with the Second Brigade of our division.

On the 23d, we passed Ringgold and camped 2 miles beyond the gap at the Rock [Stone] Church.

On the 24th, the division moved to Terrill's house and camped there.

On the 25th. at 3 a. m., the division moved across the country to the left, and joined General Cruft's command on the Cleveland and

Dalton road. Forming on the right of General Cruft's we advanced along the valley east of Rocky Face Ridge, my brigade being formed in two lines, three regiments in one line and one in reserve, the Second Brigade being on my left.

When the Eleventh Regiment Ohio Volunteers, moving in column on the road, approached the point A, the enemy opened with two pieces of artillery posted on the left of the grove C. Their range was so accurate that the first shell wounded 5 of our men.

The Eleventh Ohio Volunteers deployed in the field, the Ninety-second Ohio Volunteers in the thicket on the left, the Eighty-second Indiana Volunteers formed in the woods behind and to the right of the Eleventh Ohio Volunteers, and the Eighty-ninth Ohio Volunteers was sent along the foot of the ridge across the ravine toward the log house B. Besides the line of skirmishers on our front (two companies from each of the two regiments) I sent two companies from the Eleventh Ohio Volunteers and one company from each of the other regiments, in all five companies, on the slope and to the top of the ridge to protect our right from the enfilading fire of the enemy's sharpshooters, posted on the slope of the ridge.

The ridge being very steep, a great many sharp and short spurs from it formed abrupt ravines, steep hills, and sometimes isolated knolls, filling the side of the valley at the foot of the ridge, and forming when occupied by the enemy a series of impregnable positions.

After some skirmishing with the enemy occupying the knoll and grove C, four pieces of Captain Simonson's (Indiana) battery, forming on the right of the Eleventh Ohio Volunteers, shelled the grove for a half hour, and the enemy ceased firing.

The Eighty-ninth Ohio Volunteers, occupying the knob in front of the log-house, reported that the enemy were strong in their front. Reports from the companies on the slope of the ridge corroborated the report of the Eighty-ninth Ohio Volunteers, and Captain Layman, of the Eleventh Ohio Volunteers, sent me information from the top of the ridge that at least a division of the enemy was lying on our front.

General Palmer wished me to charge and take possession of the grove C. I reported to him that I had information from the different regiments that the enemy was too strong on my front, and that it would be dangerous to charge to the left while my flank was unprotected.

About noon General Baird directed my whole brigade to the right, and it was formed with the Eleventh Ohio Volunteers at the foot of the ridge, the Eighty-ninth Ohio and Eighty-second Indiana Volunteers, on the knoll D, called Sugar Loaf Point, and the Ninety-second Ohio Volunteers at the log-house.

While at the log-house General Whipple, chief of staff of Department of the Cumberland, urged me to charge the grove C, supposing that it was the key of the position, and that if taken it would open the gap beyond Buzzard Roost where General Davis' column was stopped by the enemy.

Before directing my command to charge the grove C, which was to our left, I ordered the Eleventh Regiment Ohio Volunteers, supported by the Ninety-second Ohio Volunteers, to move to the front to provoke the enemy and oblige him to show his force. The regiment moved down the ravine and commenced to climb the opposite hill, but the enemy in front and on the flank opened such a murder-

ous fire that the regiment was broken in the twinkling of an eye. The enemy pursuing, several companies of the Ninety-second Ohio Volunteers broke also, but Captain Grosvenor of that regiment, with about 60 men, charged the scattering enemy and drove them back to their position.

At the same time the enemy charged the Eighty-ninth Ohio and Eighty-second Indiana Volunteers, posted on the knoll D, but were repulsed and followed by our men down the slope into the ravine and up the hill for some distance, when they, being re-enforced, covered our advancing men with volleys and drove them back. We retained our position, but in ten minutes lost 86 men and Lieutenant-Colonel Slocum, commanding Eighty-second Indiana Volunteers, who was very dangerously wounded.

This attempt to advance showed clearly what danger was in store not only for my brigade but the whole division. If I had moved to the left and attacked the grove C the enemy would have taken me in flank, thrown me on the Second Brigade in disorder, and attacked the Second Brigade in flank also.

Two regiments of the Third Brigade were now moved to support me on the right. After our short but sharp fighting all was quiet on our front until night, we not daring to advance and the enemy quietly waiting.

According to the information from the officers posted on the ridge, it appears that the enemy occupied in strong force the hills at the foot of the ridge on my front and the groves on the ridge east of us in General Cruft's front, posting some cavalry in the open valley between these two outstretched fists as a bait for our advance, while his main reserves were massed back in the open fields ready to support the right or left, or be hurled on the center. About a division, posted in three lines, with a strong battery on their right, supported by another line of infantry, was on our front, and in action only the first line of rebel infantry participated.

We paid unfortunately for our success in discovering the "bear in his den" by a loss of 9 killed and 78 wounded, among the latter Lieut. Col. Paul E. Slocum.

Among the officers who distinguished themselves in our short but severe encounter I must mention Capt. Edward Grosvenor, of the Ninety-second Ohio Volunteers, who, while several companies of that regiment broke, with 28 men of his own and 20 men of other companies, rushed forward to the support of the Eleventh Ohio Volunteers, charged on the enemy scattering in pursuit of our men, drove them back, and retained his position in the front during the whole afternoon.

I especially commend him to the favorable consideration of the general commanding the department, as an officer who showed his bravery and coolness in the battles of Chickamauga and Mission Ridge, leading his regiment in the latter battle after Lieutenant-Colonel Putnam was wounded, and now showing his pluck again so conspicuously and opportunely. I earnestly recommend him for promotion.

Among the enlisted men the color bearers of the regiments behaved bravely. They deserve great credit for their gallantry.

The small size of the regiments and brigades of our army mix up our ideas about their capacities. Forgetting to ascertain the number of men, a brigade is assigned sometimes to a duty requiring a division. This may lead often to very grave consequences.

My brigade in this fight, excluding the nine companies that acted as skirmishers, consisted of not more than 800 men, who fought on the position—merely a common regiment.

An approximate sketch* of the position on our front and right is annexed. The reports of the regimental commanders, and a consolidated list of casualties, are inclosed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. TURCHIN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. JAMES A. LOWRIE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*Casualties of the First Brigade, Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, February 25, 1864.*

| Regiment. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | Total. | | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Officers. | Men. | |
| 82d Indiana | ..... | 3 | 2 | 21 | 2 | 24 | 26 |
| 11th Ohio | ..... | 1 | ..... | 24 | ..... | 25 | 25 |
| 89th Ohio | ..... | 2 | ..... | 11 | ..... | 13 | 13 |
| 92d Ohio | ..... | 4 | ..... | 19 | ..... | 23 | 23 |
| Total | ..... | 10 | 2 | 75 | 2 | 85 | 87 |

J. B. TURCHIN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

HDQRS. 1ST BRIG., 3D DIV., 14TH A. C.,
*Ringgold, Ga., March 1, 1864.*

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No. 24.

*Report of Capt. William C. Stineback, Eighty-second Indiana Infantry.*

HDQRS. EIGHTY-SECOND REGIMENT INDIANA INFANTRY,
*Camp near Ringgold, Ga., March 3, 1864.*

CAPTAIN: The following report of the operations of the Eighty-second Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the late reconnaissance in direction of Dalton, Ga., is respectfully submitted:

In obedience to orders from brigade headquarters, on Monday, February 22, this regiment, in connection with the Eleventh, Eighty-ninth, and Ninety-second Ohio Volunteers, took up the line of March from Chattanooga, Tenn., in direction of Ringgold, Ga., near which place we bivouacked, on the banks of Chickamauga Creek, having marched about 16 miles, nothing worthy of especial notice having occurred during the day.

* Not found.

Tuesday, February 23, about 12 m., moved across the creek and halted until near night, then moved forward, passing through Ringgold, and over a narrow road through the gap between Taylor's and White Oak Ridges, about 3 miles, and again bivouacked for the night on the banks of the Chickamauga, near the Stone Church.

On Wednesday, February 24, about 10 a. m., moved across the creek and took position on a ridge running north and south on the left of our brigade, which was formed in line of battle in the valley. In this position we remained until near night, when the regiment was withdrawn, and rejoining the brigade moved out on the Ringgold and Dalton road and bivouacked for the night near Tunnel Hill.

Thursday morning, February 25, moved out about 3 a. m., and crossed to another road leading from Ringgold to Dalton, where we found General Cruft's division of the Fourth Corps. Shortly after coming up with this force brisk skirmishing commenced on the road in our front, and our brigade was withdrawn and marched over the hill to our right, and together with the Third Brigade of our division formed in line of battle in Stony [Rocky] Face Valley. In this order we proceeded some distance, when the Eighty-second Regiment was marched by the right flank to a road skirting a field, along which we proceeded some distance, until fired upon by a battery, the second shot from which wounded Capt. Marcellus Fee, of Company F, and 2 privates. The regiment then changed direction to the right, and formed column by division, doubled on the center, under cover of a low ridge, which partially shielded us from the fire of the enemy's battery. We had not long lain in this position, however, when we were again ordered out, and deploying column moved by the right flank up the ravine into the open field. A strong line of skirmishers was then thrown out, and, supported by the Eighty-second Indiana and Eighty-ninth Ohio Regiments, engaged the enemy, forcing them off of the first ridge on our front, of which we took possession. It was then ordered that at a given signal we should charge the next ridge in front of us, but information was now communicated by the officer commanding the skirmishers that the enemy were in strong force in the ravine and on the hills. General Turchin, upon being informed of this, sent orders to us to remain in our present position until re-enforcements were brought to us. The Eleventh Ohio was now sent up to support our right flank, and the Ninety-second Ohio to be held in reserve. The Eleventh Ohio was then ordered to advance, and soon became hotly engaged, when the Eighty-ninth Ohio and Eighty-second Indiana, then under command of Lieut. Col. Paul E. Slocum, were ordered forward. The Eleventh Ohio being repulsed and closely followed by the enemy, our attention was drawn to the top of the ridge upon which we were lying. When we reached the top the firing became general, and after some minutes' sharp fighting the enemy were driven from the place of the opposite ridge to its top, closely followed by the Eighty-second Indiana and Eighty-ninth Ohio Regiments, encouraged by the presence of General Turchin, who gallantly appeared and exposed his life on horseback through the thickest of the fight. We passed over the ridges, which were very steep, when we were met by a murderous fire from a greatly superior force of the enemy and compelled to retire again to the first ridge.

In this charge our loss in wounded was 22, among whom were 2 color bearers, Color-Sergt. John D. Wilson and Corpl. Edgar B. Bishop, both of Company C. The colors were, however, safely brought off by Corpl. N. J. Arwine, of Company H.

We had not long held the position when Lieut. Col. Paul E. Slocum, while gallantly passing to and fro along the line encouraging his men, received a severe and dangerous wound in the left breast, and was carried from the field. The command of the regiment then devolved upon myself. The regiment was formed on the top of the ridge, and some temporary works of logs thrown up and the position maintained, notwithstanding we were constantly annoyed by the enemy's sharpshooters throughout the remainder of the day, until about 10 p. m., when the entire brigade was quietly withdrawn and marched back to our former camp at Stone Church, arriving after daylight.

To Adjt. Alf. G. Hunter especially, and to the line officers of the regiment generally, who gallantly discharged their duties throughout the day and sustained me in the trying and responsible situation in which I was by force of circumstances so suddenly placed, I am greatly indebted. Many cases of individual daring and heroism among the enlisted men of the regiment were also exhibited, but want of time and space will not here permit me to particularize them.

Friday, February 26, remained in camp at Stone Church until 11.30 a. m., then marched to Tunnel Hill to support Generals Johnson and Davis while they were withdrawing their forces, where we remained until about 10 o'clock at night. Then returned to our former camp at Chickamauga Creek, where we rested until next day.

Saturday, February 27, about 11 a. m., we again took up the line of march for Ringgold, and passing through the town, pitched our camp on a ridge bordering Chickamauga Creek, our present location.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. C. STINEBACK,
*Captain, Commanding Regiment.*

Capt. W. B. CURTIS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 25.

*Report of Col. Willard A. Dickerman, One hundred and third Illinois Infantry, commanding First Brigade, Detachment Fifteenth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., DETACHMENT 15TH ARMY CORPS,
*In the Field, near Catoosa Station, February 27*, 1864.

MAJOR: In obedience to circular dated Lee's house, February 26, 1864, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the First Brigade, Detachment Fifteenth Army Corps, in the late reconnaissance near Buzzard Roost Gap, Ga.:

The brigade was composed of the following-named regiments, viz: One hundred and third Illinois Infantry Volunteers, Asias Willison, major, commanding; Ninety-third Illinois Infantry Volunteers, N. C. Buswell, lieutenant-colonel, commanding; Twelfth Indiana Infantry Volunteers, James Goodnow, lieutenant-colonel, commanding; Thirty-second Missouri Infantry Volunteers, A. J. Seay, major, commanding; Ninety-seventh Indiana Infantry Volunteers, David Shelby, captain, commanding; Ninety-ninth Indiana Infantry Volunteers, Josiah Farrar, captain, commanding; and moved from Cleveland, East Tenn., at 5 a. m. on the morning of the 23d instant,

for Red Clay, distance 13 miles, at which place it arrived and reported to Brigadier-General Cruft, commanding First Division, Fourth Army Corps, at 11 a. m. of the same day, as per Special Orders, No. —, from headquarters Detachment Fifteenth Army Corps.

At Red Clay this brigade formed the left of the line, with its right resting on the railroad, while its left extended to the base of the hill on the southeast, four regiments in position with two (Twelfth Indiana Infantry Volunteers and Ninety-third Illinois Infantry Volunteers) thrown forward one-half mile to the left and front as pickets. At 3 p. m. the march was resumed, with this brigade in rear. When the command went into bivouac at 11 p. m. near Catoosa Springs, this brigade had marched over 25 miles. Here again it took position on the left, picketing the gap and roads in rear.

February 24, 10 a. m., in advance to Lee's house, on same road traveled previous evening, distance 2½ miles. Here the brigade was ordered to take position with its right resting on the crest of a hill fronting south, and picketing front and both flanks, in which position the brigade remained until dark, when it went into bivouac in column by wing right in front.

February 25, 4 a. m., moved southeast to a point some 3 miles distant from Buzzard Roost Gap. Here the brigade was put in position as reserve, in rear of the center of the first line of battle. In this position the brigade was formed in column by wing right in front, with two regiments in the left wing. The Ninety-seventh Indiana Infantry Volunteers, having been detailed to guard the brigade train, was left in rear. As the line advanced on Buzzard Roost Gap the reserve was made to conform as near as possible to the movements of the line, keeping its relative position in rear of the center.

During the action I was called on for the following details: 9 a. m., Ninety-ninth Indiana Infantry Volunteers, Captain Farrar commanding, to support the line on the right, reported to Colonel Grose; 11 a. m., Twelfth Indiana Infantry Volunteers, Lieut. Col. James Goodnow commanding, same duty, reported to Colonel Grose. At 1 p. m. both of the above regiments had reported back, and were placed in the reserve. Three p. m., One hundred and third Illinois Infantry Volunteers, Maj. A. Willison commanding, and Ninety-ninth Indiana Infantry Volunteers, Captain Farrar commanding, were sent to the support of battery on the right. Six p. m., by order of the general commanding, I moved with Twelfth Indiana Volunteers and Thirty-second Missouri Volunteers across the valley to our left to guard a gap, where it was thought the enemy might attempt a flank movement, distance 1½ miles. At 10 p. m. I moved to the position occupied on the evening of the 25th instant, south of Lee's house, where the brigade went into bivouac at 2 a. m. of the 26th.

At 8.30 a. m., 26th, moved southeast 1½ miles and took position on both sides of the gap in the mountain, so as to guard the pass, with pickets thrown well forward. At 4 p. m. the enemy's scouts appeared, and were fired upon by the vedettes on the ridge in front. At 10 p. m. the brigade was in motion for the Stone Church, near Catoosa Station, where, owing to delays caused by the column in advance, it did not arrive until 2 a. m. of the 27th, at which time it went into bivouac fronting to the rear.

February 27, at 1 p. m., the brigade was put in motion and took its position in the column, in rear of Colonel Grose's brigade; marched

6 miles, and bivouacked in an open field, 4 miles west of Red Clay. February 28, at 7 a. m., the brigade was in motion for Cleveland, where it arrived and was reported to Brigadier-General Matthies at 2 p. m., as per Special Orders, No. —, from headquarters First Division, Fourth Army Corps.

The entire march was made without loss in any manner whatever.

In closing this report I desire to say that in the execution of your various orders I have had the most hearty co-operation from the commanding officers of the regiments under my command, and both officers and men are deserving the highest commendation for their promptness and efficiency.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. A. DICKERMAN,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Maj. WILLIAM H. SINCLAIR,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Div., Fourth Army Corps.*

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No. 26.

*Reports of Col. Eli Long, Fourth Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, Second Cavalry Division.*

NEAR BURNT MILL,
ON CLEVELAND AND SPRING PLACE ROAD,
*February* 22, 1864—2.20 p. m.

GENERAL: Please find below a copy of dispatch received by me yesterday (21st) evening at 4 p. m.:

CHATTANOOGA, *February* 21, 1864.

Col. ELI LONG:

Move out upon Spring Place road with 600 men and establish communication with Cruft at Red Clay. Push on as far as possible in direction of Dalton, keeping up communication with Cruft to observe movements of enemy, and prevent or give timely warning of any attack of enemy to turn Cruft's left flank. Should the enemy retire, send word to Cruft that he may advance from Red Clay.

W. D. WHIPPLE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

I left Calhoun at 6 a. m. this morning with 600 cavalrymen, with ten wagons with forage, and four ambulances. I hardly think they could have known the location of the roads at department headquarters, for this is the nearest point on this (Cleveland and Spring Place) road to Red Clay, and it (Red Clay) is 10 or 12 miles from here. I shall encamp to-night at some mills nearly 2 miles from here on the Connesauga, where I shall remain until I hear something from you. If not inconsistent, please explain to me as clearly as you can what is expected of my command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Comdg. Second Brig., Second Cav. Div.*

Brigadier-General CRUFT,
*Comdg. First Division, Fourth Army Corps, Red Clay.*

P. S.—I have met or heard of nothing as yet.

E. L.

AT CROSS-ROADS OF BENTON AND DALTON ROAD, AND VARNELL'S STATION AND KING'S LOWER BRIDGE ROAD,
6 MILES SOUTHEAST OF VARNELL'S STATION
AND 9½ MILES FROM DALTON,
*February* 23, 1864—1.25 p. m.

SIR: At 11.30 this a. m. I attacked and drove out of their camp at least a regiment of rebel infantry, 3½ miles this side of Dalton. They had winter quarters (log-huts), and as they were completely surprised they had not time to move any plunder out of their huts, and from their appearance and the small amount of plunder in them I believe they were preparing to leave. The cars were whistling furiously while the skirmish was going on. I have not force enough to cope single-handed with all of their cavalry, but I think you may advance with safety if you can still keep your supports, Palmer's troops, &c., within supporting distance. I believe they are leaving the place, and they should not be allowed to do [so] undisturbed. I shall be compelled to go somewhere to get some forage. Please let me hear from you as fully, in detail, as you can. I shall either wait here or move up on the road to Varnell's Station until I hear from you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Maj. W. H. SINCLAIR,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

I have 12 prisoners. Can't you send me the Fourth Michigan Cavalry and Second Kentucky and Warner's company, when I may be able to do something?

ELI LONG.

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HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Varnell's Station, February* 24, 1864—8 a. m.

SIR: I have just arrived here. Will push down the dirt road that runs alongside of the railroad as far toward Dalton as practicable. I believe there are some rebel cavalry on the main Cleveland and Dalton road. I will be compelled to go back to the Connesauga or somewhere else to-morrow unless I have better luck in foraging to-day than I did yesterday. Please to forward a copy of this to General Palmer. A brigade of infantry was encamped where we had the skirmish yesterday. I have met nothing this morning. Let me know your location by the bearer.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Maj. W. H. SINCLAIR,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

P. S.—I have not received the dispatch sent to me at 2 p. m. yesterday, nor heard of the bearer.

E. L.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SECOND CAV. DIV.,
ON ROAD FROM DALTON TO VARNELL'S STATION,
JUST EAST OF TUNNEL MOUNTAIN,
*February* 24, 1864—2 p. m.

SIR: I have just driven in with one squadron the infantry pickets on the dirt and rail roads 3 miles from Dalton, and am now in line with pickets skirmishing in front. Their cavalry ran into their infantry supports, which they seem to have on all of the roads. I am now 5 miles from Dalton, and do not think it prudent to go any farther until I hear further from you and the result of your reconnaissance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Comdg. Second Brig., Second Cav. Div.*

Maj. W. H. SINCLAIR,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

P. S.—I send with the bearer one company to remain on picket at Varnell's Station to watch the Cleveland and Dalton road that goes down on the other side of railroad.

E. L.

—

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
HENDERSON'S HOUSE, 5 MILES FROM DALTON, ON RAILROAD,
*February* 24, 1864—6.30 p. m.

SIR: I have just returned from another reconnaissance toward Dalton. Ran into a large infantry cantonment 3 miles or less from Dalton, and ran out again. I had several men wounded. Who is intended to command, Colonel Grose or myself? Please give some directions about it. I don't think they have all left Dalton as much as I did.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Comdg. Second Brigade, Second Division.*

Maj. W. H. SINCLAIR,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

—

FEBRUARY 25, 1864—12.15 p. m.

I have my command near a gap road which runs through the ridge on your left, with pickets down the railroad some quarter of a mile. Nothing can come through the gap without my knowing, and I think this is the only road between here and Dalton through which a force can get on your flank or rear, and as my ammunition is nearly exhausted I will remain here until further orders.

Respectfully,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Commanding Cavalry.*

General CRUFT.

—

FEBRUARY 25, 1864—4.15 o'clock.

GENERAL: The fire has just driven me out of the woods on the ridge that I was occupying. I still have a picket on the road in the

gap, however. A few minutes since about 40 infantry skirmishers moved up on our right, advancing toward your lines. The rebel lines, I think, extend farther east than yours. At any rate, they came to the foot of the ridge I have been occupying, and I think there may be some danger of their lapping you on your left unless your lines extend completely across the valley in which your left rested this morning. Please let me know for my guidance where your left now is. Cannot your quartermaster send me some forage? Your commissary would not deliver me any rations on Captain Kniffin's order, which please find inclosed with note of commissary.

Respectfully,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Comdg. Second Brig., Second Cav. Div.*

Brigadier-General CRUFT,
*Commanding Division.*

P. S.—The rebel cavalry pickets are in sight in our front.

Please indorse Captain Kniffin's order, so that I can get the rations.

E. L.

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HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SECOND DIV. CAVALRY,
*Near Lee's House, Ga., February 27, 1864.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report:

In compliance with orders received February 21, 1864, from headquarters Department of the Cumberland, I left Calhoun, Tenn., Monday, February 22, 1864, in command of 600 men (350 mounted infantry and 250 cavalry), and marched out on the Spring Place road. Monday evening I encamped near the house of Mr. Waterhouse, on Connesauga River, about 30 miles south of Calhoun. I met no enemy during the day.

I left my encampment near Waterhouse's Tuesday morning, February 23, at 7 a. m. (having communicated with General Cruft at Red Clay the night before), and marched toward Dalton. My advance guard drove in the enemy's vedettes when within 4 miles of Dalton. I immediately pushed on my column rapidly and attacked a regiment of rebel infantry, which was encamped within 3 miles of Dalton, driving them from their camp and capturing 12 prisoners belonging to a Mississippi regiment. The enemy then formed, and I withdrew my command to Russell's Mill, distance of 4 miles east of Varnell's Station, and encamped for the night. There I received a communication from Major-General Palmer requesting me to advance in the morning, February 24, in the direction of Dalton via Varnell's Station.

I left my encampment at Russell's Mill at 6 a. m., February 24, and reached Varnell's about 7, where I halted until about 10 a. m., in the mean time sending small forces on the different roads leading from Varnell's. They met no enemy, and I pushed on toward Dalton, marching on a road running parallel to the Cleveland and Dalton railroad. When within 5 miles of Dalton I met with the enemy's pickets. My advance squadron drove them to within 3 miles of Dalton. I then fell back 2 miles, and drew my command up in line on a ridge 1 mile west of the railroad awaiting movements

of the enemy. I remained in my position, when I was joined by Colonel Grose, commanding a brigade of the First Division, Fourth Army Corps. Soon after the arrival of Colonel Grose, I dismounted my command and advanced in line against the enemy, driving their skirmishers about a mile in the direction of their camp, but there I was compelled to fall back, being attacked by a brigade of rebel infantry, who were firing at my men from behind log-huts. I fell back to the line of Colonel Grose, and soon afterward (as it was nearly dark) retired about 2 miles to the rear, where I encamped for the night.

The next morning, February 25, I took a position on the left of our infantry lines and advanced as they did. I moved up about half a mile, when my men became engaged with the enemy. I was then joined by 100 men of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, who had been ordered to report to me by Brigadier-General Cruft. I pressed on against the enemy until I had gotten a short distance in advance of the left of our infantry lines. I then halted, and remained in my position during the remainder of the day. At dark I retired about a mile to the rear where I remained until 11 o'clock p. m., when I moved my command back on the Dalton and Varnell's Station road, about 3 miles from the place where we fought during the day.

On the morning of the 26th, I moved to Lee's house, where our infantry was encamped, and remained there until about 1 p. m., at which time our pickets were fired upon by the enemy's cavalry, when I marched out and drove the rebels off. I followed them about 2½ miles in the direction of Tunnel Hill, when I returned to my camp of the morning.

My horses had had very little forage, not being able to draw any and there being very little in the country. I could not have pursued the rebel cavalry vigorously if the country had admitted of it, which it did not.

During the night our infantry fell back to a place near Catoosa Platform, and I am now near my camp of yesterday.

The following is the list* of casualties in my command since February 22.

I had no means of ascertaining the injury done the enemy, but it was reported that 8 bodies were left on the field. I took 23 prisoners.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Comdg. Second Brig., Second Div., Cav.*

Brigadier-General WHIPPLE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SECOND DIV. CAV.,
*Red Hill Valley, 12 Miles from Cleveland, Tenn., Feb. 27, 1864.*

SIR: After I had left the vicinity of General Cruft's division and come about 20 miles therefrom, he being at Catoosa Platform, a sergeant of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry brought me word that General Cruft was being attacked by rebel cavalry, but as General Cruft expressed no desire for me to return I did not go back, it

*Nominal list (omitted) shows 1 officer and 1 man killed, 19 men wounded, and 2 men missing.

being nearly night when I received the word by the sergeant, and my horses had no forage to-day.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELI LONG,
*Colonel, Comdg. Second Brig., Second Div., Cav.*

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM D. WHIPPLE,
*Chief of Staff, Army of the Cumberland, Cleveland, Tenn.*

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No. 27.

*Report of Capt. William W. Van Antwerp, Fourth Michigan Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH MICHIGAN CAVALRY,
*Ooltewah, Tenn., February* 29, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to orders from Colonel Enyart, commanding First Brigade, I reported at 12 m. on the 22d instant, with 100 men of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, to Brig. Gen. Charles Cruft, commanding First Division, Fourth Army Corps.

By his order reconnoitered the Dalton road 5 miles. Saw the pickets of the enemy, who kept out of my way. Returned to Red Clay and encamped for the night.

On the morning of the 23d, I sent out 50 men, under command of First Lieut. C. T. Hudson, to reconnoiter the Dalton road. He proceeded 5½ miles when he encountered the enemy, but in such force that he deemed it imprudent to engage him, and returned to camp.

In compliance with orders from the general commanding, I then proceeded with my command, on an obscure and circuitous road, to the Stone Church, near Ringgold, without meeting the enemy.

On the morning of the 24th, I proceeded in advance of the division to Dr. Lee's house, and moved from thence 1 mile out on the Tunnel Hill road, which I picketed until the arrival of the division, when I was ordered to report to Colonel Champion with 50 men, and send an officer with the remaining 50 to report to Colonel Grose. Lieutenant Hudson was placed in command, with my command deployed as skirmishers. I proceeded in advance of Colonel Champion's brigade toward Tunnel Hill, and when within 1 mile of that place came to General Davis' division and halted until nearly sundown, when I moved back in rear of brigade to Dr. Lee's house.

At 3 a. m. on the 25th, as per orders from the general commanding, I moved out in advance of brigade on the Dalton road to Big Spring, arriving at that point just before daylight. After a brief halt I proceeded out 2 miles toward Dalton, where Colonel Kilgour's regiment was picketing the front. I was here joined by Lieutenant Hudson with the men under his command, and a few minutes afterward was ordered to reconnoiter the Dalton road. About 1½ miles out encountered strong pickets of the enemy. I then fell back half a mile, and picketed the road until 9 a. m., when I was ordered to report to Colonel Long, commanding a brigade of cavalry. I joined Colonel Long at 10 a. m. He was moving upon the enemy in line

of battle; by his order I formed my command on the left of his line, covering the Dalton rail and dirt roads. In this position we moved about 1 mile, driving the enemy before us, during which time 4 of my men were wounded and 7 horses shot, 4 of them killed instantly, and 3 so badly wounded that I was obliged to abandon them. I picketed the Dalton rail and dirt roads until sundown, when I was ordered to fall back and join the brigade. At 10 p. m., by order of Colonel Long, I reported to General Cruft, and by his order moved out in rear of the division to Dr. Lee's house.

About 10 a. m. on the morning of the 26th, I was ordered to reconnoiter the Dalton road from Dr. Lee's house. When 4 miles out I encountered the enemy's pickets, and drove them about 1½ miles. At this time I heard considerable firing in my rear, and fearful of being cut off, I immediately fell back, but had only proceeded about 2 miles when my advance was fired upon. Ascertaining that the enemy was in considerable force, and that it was impossible to get back by that road, I turned to the right, going between two ridges, with the horses upon the gallop for about 3 miles, when I suddenly turned to the left through a thicket and kept in a northeast direction, passing over three ridges and coming into the Varnell's Station road about 1½ miles from Dr. Lee's house, losing 2 men whom I had sent to the rear, 1 of them having been taken suddenly and severely ill and the other one's horse having become disabled. At sundown moved to Stone Church in advance of division.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock on the 27th, I was ordered by Major Sinclair to go out on the Tunnel Hill road, and if none of our forces were there to picket the road until the division had passed. When out about 1,000 yards I very suddenly and unexpectedly met the cavalry skirmishers of the enemy. I succeeded in checking them until I notified Major Sinclair and the commander of the infantry, which was passing, of their approach. I then fell back across the creek, where I deployed a portion of my command and remained until the column of General Cruft's forces had passed. Lieutenant Hudson's horse was shot in this skirmish while deploying skirmishers in rear as I moved back with the command. Just before leaving the Stone Church, I sent 19 men with a message to Colonel Long at Dr. Lee's house. With the remainder of my command as rear guard to the division, I marched to the Alabama road, 6 miles from Ooltewah.

On the morning of the 28th, by order of the general commanding, I proceeded to camp at Ooltewah, where I arrived at 10 a. m., and the 19 men whom I had sent to Colonel Long arrived at 3 p. m.

The following are the names of the wounded: Sergt. David Donahoe, Company D, head severely; Private John S. Caine, Company D, leg severely; Private William Sterling, Company B, slightly; Private George Rose, Company C, slightly.

I cannot speak in too high terms of Lieutenant Hudson, the only officer who accompanied me. His coolness, daring, and bravery are unsurpassed, and on the several occasions spoken of above these soldierly qualities were all advantageously brought into requisition.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. W. VAN ANTWERP,
*Captain, Comdg. Detachment Fourth Michigan Cavalry.*

Maj. W. H. SINCLAIR,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 28.

*Reports of General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army, commanding Army of Tennessee.*

DALTON, *February* 25, 1864.

We have been skirmishing most of the day in the gap through which the railroad passes, 3½ miles from Dalton, and in the valley east of the same mountain, easily holding our ground in the gap and driving back the enemy in the valley. His forces and plans not developed.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
*General.*

His Excellency the PRESIDENT.

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DALTON, *February* 27, 1864.

The enemy retired during the night. Seems to have converted his movement into a reconnaissance. It is reported that Colonel Tyler has been promoted vice Bate. It will be long before he can return to duty.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General BRAGG,
*Richmond.*

—

VINEVILLE, GA.,
*October* 20, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of the Army of Tennessee while it was under my command. Want of the reports of the lieutenant-generals, for which I have waited until now, prevents me from being circumstantial:

In obedience to the orders of the President, received by telegraph at Clinton, Miss., December 18, 1863, I assumed command of the Army of Tennessee, at Dalton, on the 27th of that month. Letters from the President and Secretary of War, dated, respectively, December 23 and 20, impressed upon me the importance of soon commencing active operations against the enemy. The relative forces, including the moral effect of the affair of Missionary Ridge, condition of the artillery horses and most of those of the cavalry, and want of field transportation, made it impracticable to effect the wishes of the Executive.

On December 31, the effective total of the infantry and artillery of the army, including two brigades belonging to the Department of Mississippi, was 36,826. The effective total of the cavalry, including Roddey's command at Tuscumbia, was 5,613. The Federal force in our front, exclusive of cavalry, and the Ninth and Twenty-third Corps at Knoxville, was estimated at 80,000.

The winter was mainly employed in improving the discipline and equipment of the army and bringing back absentees to the ranks. At the end of April more than 5,000 had rejoined their regiments. The horses of the cavalry and artillery had been much reduced in condition by the previous campaign. As full supplies of forage could not be furnished them at Dalton, it was necessary to send about half of each of these arms of service far to the rear, where the country could furnish food. On that account Brigadier-General Roddey was ordered with about three-fourths of his troops from Tuscumbia

to Dalton, and arrived at the end of February. On April 2, however, he was sent back to his former position by the Secretary of War.

On January 15 and 16, Baldwin's and Quarles' brigades returned to the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana, to which they belonged. His Excellency Joseph E. Brown added to the army two regiments of State troops, which were used to guard the railroad bridges between Dalton and Atlanta.

On February 17, the President ordered me by telegraph to detach Lieutenant-General Hardee with the infantry of his corps, except Stevenson's division, to aid Lieutenant-General Polk against Sherman in Mississippi. This order was obeyed as promptly as our means of transportation permitted. The force detached was probably exaggerated to Major-General Thomas, for on the 23d the Federal Army advanced to Ringgold, on the 24th drove in our outposts, and on the 25th skirmished at Mill Creek Gap and in Crow's Valley, east of Rocky Face Mountain. We were successful at both places. At the latter Clayton's brigade, after a sharp action of half an hour, defeated double its number. At night it was reported that a U. S. brigade was occupying Dug Gap, from which it had driven our troops. Granbury's Texas brigade, returning from Mississippi, had just arrived. It was ordered to march to the foot of the mountain immediately, and to retake the gap at sunrise next morning, which was done. In the night of the 26th the enemy retired.*

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON,
*General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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No. 29.

*Report of Maj. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart, C. S. Army, commanding division, Hindman's Corps.*

HEADQUARTERS STEWART'S DIVISION,
HINDMAN'S CORPS, ARMY OF TENNESSEE,
*February* 28, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with orders from corps headquarters of this date, I hasten to render a report of the operations of the past week, though the time allowed me does not permit me to await the reports of brigade commanders.

During the afternoon of Monday, 22d instant, the first intelligence of the approach of the enemy was received. Stovall's being the advanced brigade of my division, was directed to be in readiness to move at a moment's notice.

Tuesday afternoon, 23d instant, the trains were ordered to the rear, and I received an order from the major-general commanding corps, of which the following is a copy:

HEADQUARTERS HINDMAN'S CORPS,
*February* 23, 1864—1.30 p. m.

Major-General STEWART:

GENERAL: General Hindman directs that you immediately move to the front with your command and occupy the line indicated, observing the modifications as

* Portion of report here omitted will appear in connection with the Atlanta campaign, Vol. XXXVIII, Part II.

suggested by you on yesterday. It is expected that yours and Breckinridge's divisions shall hold the gap. Williams' battalion of artillery will be ordered to your support.

Respectfully,

J. P. WILSON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Brigadier-General Lewis, commanding Breckinridge's division, reported to me, as did also Major Williams, commanding battalion of artillery. The right of the position—the gap in Rocky Face Ridge, through which pass the Western and Atlantic Railroad and the dirt road leading from Dalton to Tunnel Hill and La Fayette—was held by Stovall's, Gibson's, and Moore's brigades (the latter under Colonel Higley), of my division, and by Darden's and Jeffress' batteries. The left was occupied by the three brigades of Breckinridge's division and Kolb's battery, Finley's brigade occupying, with the battery, the advance ridge. Clayton's brigade, of my division, not being needed to fill the line, was placed in reserve in rear of the position, his outpost up the valley to our right being maintained.

In the course of the day (Wednesday, 24th), the cavalry in front fell back to the rear of the line we occupied and the enemy appeared in our front. Late in the afternoon the enemy were reported advancing down the valley on our right. Clayton's brigade was ordered to meet them, which they did, repulsing the enemy in handsome style.

About 4 p. m. on Thursday (25th), two regiments of the enemy (the Tenth Michigan and Sixtieth Illinois) advanced opposite Stovall's brigade. The line of skirmishers fell back until the enemy came within easy range, when the artillery on the ridge occupied by my division opened on them, and Colonel Henderson, of Forty-second Georgia, Stovall's brigade, advanced his line, driving back the enemy's line in great confusion, killing and wounding a number of them and capturing Lieutenant-Colonel Dickerson, of Tenth Michigan, and 14 men. About the same time a second advance down the valley toward Clayton's camp took place, which was gallantly met and repulsed by Clayton's brigade.

During Friday (26th) nothing occurred beyond occasional firing between the lines of skirmishers. During Friday night the enemy retired, and on Saturday (27th), in obedience to orders from Major-General Hindman, my division was advanced, following the cavalry under General Wheeler to the vicinity of Tunnel Hill, when, finding the enemy had retired to Ringgold, we were ordered to return.

Total loss reported :

| Command. | Killed. | Wounded. |
|---|---|---|
| Clayton's brigade | 4 | 67 |
| Stovall's brigade | 2 | 17 |
| Moore's brigade | 1 | 3 |
| Gibson's brigade | | 1 |
| Total | 7 | 88 |

With this reports of brigade commanders respectfully forwarded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. P. STEWART,
*Major-General.*

Maj. J. P. WILSON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 30.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Henry D. Clayton, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.*

CLAYTON'S BRIGADE,
*On the Field, February* 25, 1864—7.30 p. m.

MAJOR: Herewith I submit report of casualties in this brigade in the engagement of yesterday and to-day. It will be seen that there have been killed 6 men; mortally and dangerously wounded, 2 officers and 2 men; slightly, 22. Total, 55.*

On yesterday evening [at] 5 o'clock, I received orders to march my brigade up Crow's Valley and meet the enemy. On reaching my former camp with the head of the brigade, I found a line of battle advancing about 300 yards distant with skirmishers in front. Captain Greene, of the Eighteenth Alabama, who had been on picket with two companies, was fighting gallantly. Bringing the brigade into line in all haste, I immediately moved forward. The enemy moved rapidly, as if endeavoring to gain the cabins, and nearly succeeded in doing so. They waited only to receive a few volleys before giving way in great confusion. I continued the pursuit about a half mile. The enemy fired 6 shots from artillery. By request, Major-General Stewart promptly sent me two pieces of artillery, but the enemy retired under cover of hills and I did not use them, but moved my infantry forward again and recovered my present advantageous position.

At 4 o'clock this evening, the enemy moved a line something longer than my own upon my front. Having driven them back, another line of about the same length immediately renewed the attack and were likewise repulsed.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. D. CLAYTON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major REEVE, *A. A. G., Stevenson's Command.*

*Return of Casualties in Clayton's brigade at Rocky Face Mountain, February* 24 *and* 25, 1864.

[From nominal list.]

| Regiments. | Killed. | Wounded. | Missing. | Aggregate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18th Alabama | | 7 | | 7 |
| 32d and 58th Alabama | 3 | 31 | 1 | 35 |
| 36th Alabama | | 11 | | 11 |
| 38th Alabama | 2 | 18 | | 20 |
| Total | 5 | 67 | 1 | 73 |

No. 31.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Marcellus A. Stovall, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.*

HDQRS. STOVALL'S BRIGADE, *February* 28, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my brigade during the last five days:

On the 23d instant, in obedience to orders, I moved from my camp at 3.30 p. m., at Buzzard Roost Station, and took position in line of battle on ———, occupying the extreme right of Stewart's division.

*An apparent error in factors and total. See recapitulation of nominal list, following.

Advanced a line of skirmishers, under command of Captain Mitchell, of the Forty-second Georgia, 400 yards in front of the line, and ordered 100 men, under command of Captain Clark, to the top of Rocky Face Mountain.

All remained quiet until 5 o'clock on the evening of the 24th, when light skirmishing commenced between our pickets and the advance line of the enemy, continuing for a short time, after which all remained quiet until 8 o'clock on the morning of the 25th, when skirmishing commenced again and continued at intervals through the morning.

At 9 o'clock ordered the Forty-second Georgia Infantry, Col. R. J. Henderson commanding, to the top of Rocky Face Mountain. At 4 o'clock our skirmishers were vigorously attacked by two regiments of the enemy and were driven 100 yards to the rear, about which time a heavy artillery fire was opened upon the enemy, under cover of which Colonel Henderson advanced to the support of the picket, charged and drove the enemy from their position, losing 1 officer and 1 man killed and 8 wounded, the enemy leaving 30 men dead on the field and 1 lieutenant-colonel and 14 men prisoners in our hands, after which firing ceased. All remained quiet during this action in front.

Colonel Curtiss, of the Forty-first Georgia Infantry, while in the discharge of his duty was struck by a minie-ball and severely wounded.

On the 26th, all remained quiet, the enemy showing no disposition to advance.

On the 27th, about 6 a. m., our skirmishers advanced under command of Major Austin, but found the enemy had retreated during the night. About 12 o'clock moved forward from our position to Tunnel Hill and remained there until 3 p. m., when I received orders and returned to my former position in line of battle on the ridge occupied in the morning.

On the morning of the 28th, returned to camp in rear of Major-General Stewart's headquarters.

Respectfully submitted.

M. A. STOVALL,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. J. C. THOMPSON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

I have not sufficient time to make a report, but suppose this memorandum will be sufficient for General S[tewart] to make his. From burying 30 and finding others afterward we supposed the loss of the enemy in killed in front of our works was between 40 and 50. The wounded were, except in one or two cases, carried off by the enemy, and the number can only be guessed at.

M. A. S.

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No. 32.

*Report of Col. John H. Higley, Fortieth Alabama Infantry, commanding Moore's brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS MOORE'S BRIGADE,
*February* 28, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by this brigade in the recent operations:

The brigade was formed in line of battle on the evening of the 23d instant, the left resting on the railroad and the line extending

along the ridge northwardly and connecting with General Gibson's brigade on the right. The brigade consisted of three regiments (the Thirty-seventh, Fortieth, and Forty-second Alabama Volunteers), having in line 63 officers and 970 men.

On the evening of the 24th instant, the enemy appeared in our front and there was some picket skirmishing, but no loss on our side.

On the 25th instant, several pieces of artillery opened on our line, but only 1 man wounded by it. Our pickets, however, were engaged and 3 men wounded.

During the afternoon the enemy made an advance to the right of our line and in front of General Stovall's brigade, General Gibson's brigade having been withdrawn from the line and placed in reserve. They were repulsed with considerable loss, the artillery on our line and our sharpshooters doing effective service.

On the 27th instant, there was little or nothing done on our line. Early in the morning the enemy formed a line to our left and to the right of Breckinridge's division, and there were some movements back and forth of cavalry, but no advance on their part.

In the afternoon the brigade was ordered to the front with the other brigades of the division and then returned with them at night, and this morning we returned to our old camp.

The total loss is 3 men wounded and 1 man killed.

I have no means of estimating the losses of the enemy in our front. Our skirmishers reported that they buried 2 men on the night of the 26th instant, and several more were seen in our advance of yesterday.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. H. HIGLEY,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Maj. J. C. THOMPSON, *Asst. Adjt. Gen.*

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No. 33.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Mark P. Lowrey, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.*

FEBRUARY 25, 1864—4.30 p. m.

DEAR SIR: Major Dunklin, an excellent and reliable officer, who is in command of three companies of sharpshooters on the hill to my left, reports as follows:

> The enemy have two lines of battle in the field in front of our position fortified with logs and rails, but are not moving; perfectly inactive. They also have a line of skirmishers running across the point of this peak and immediately in our front, in easy range of my line, but are concealed behind the cliffs of rocks.
>
> JAS. H. DUNKLIN,
> *Major Thirty-third Alabama Regiment.*

The captain commanding my skirmish line in front thinks he saw squads of Yankees and something that looked like a battery moving to the right on a road about a mile in our front.*

Very respectfully,

M. P. LOWREY,
*Brigadier-General.*

General HINDMAN.

*Nominal list of casualties in Lowrey's brigade on the 26th instant shows 3 men of Hawkins' battalion wounded.

No. 34.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Alfred Cumming, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS CUMMING'S BRIGADE,
*February* 28, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that on the morning of Thursday, the 25th instant, I was ordered to take position with my brigade up Crow's Valley, relieving Brigadier-General Clayton's command. After the line of battle had been taken and while I was engaged in relieving Clayton's skirmishers, which were posted about two-thirds of a mile in front of the line, the enemy advanced a strong line of skirmishers, supported apparently by two brigades. My skirmishers, by my order, fell back to a ridge several hundred yards nearer to my line, where (it being indicated to them that they would maintain their position) they briskly engaged the enemy's skirmishers and held them in check during the whole day. From this position the line of my skirmishers several times made partial advances, which always occasioned a corresponding withdrawal on the part of the enemy. The skirmishing was kept up in a lively manner till dusk. During the greater part of the day the left of my line (Thirty-fourth Georgia) was exposed to quite a brisk fire of shells. During the night the enemy withdrew. Early in the morning the skirmishers were thrown forward to the original position, and several scouts of infantry still farther advanced, by which 6 prisoners were taken. All behaved well, and were eager for a fight.

The list of casualties in my brigade is herewith inclosed.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. CUMMING,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 35.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Edmund W. Pettus, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS PETTUS' BRIGADE,
*February* 25, 1864.

MAJOR: I give you a list of casualties in my brigade to-day: Twenty-third Alabama Regiment, 7 men wounded, 1 mortally; Thirtieth Alabama Regiment, 1 man wounded; Thirty-first Alabama Regiment, 2 men wounded; Forty-sixth Alabama Regiment, 5 men wounded.

My brigade was not engaged, but held in reserve 100 yards in rear of Brigadier-General Cumming. Five companies of the Thirty-first Alabama, under Captain Vick, were sent to extend Brigadier-General Cumming's right. One company from the Thirtieth was sent to extend Brigadier-General Cumming's line of skirmishers on the left.

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* Two lists found. One shows 1 killed, 22 wounded, and 2 missing; the other 25 wounded, 6 missing, and 1 captured.

Late in the afternoon Captain Elliott's company, from the Thirtieth, was sent to relieve Brigadier-General Clayton's skirmishers, on the left of Brigadier-General Cumming.

Respectfully submitted.

E. W. PETTUS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Major REEVE, *Asst. Adjt. Gen.*

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No. 36.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Alexander W. Reynolds, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.*

FEBRUARY 25, 1864.

MAJOR: My skirmishers have been engaged since early this morning, and have kept back the enemy. About 12 o'clock General Clayton sent me two regiments to extend my left to the mountain. About the time they got into position the enemy advanced in force and a fight ensued. General Clayton, with a third regiment, came up and took command of the left. The fight was entirely successful, driving the enemy back twice. My own troops have been under a heavy fire of shell and canister for several hours. All behaved well. The list of killed and wounded find below:

Sixty-third Virginia, 5 wounded; Fifty-eighth and Sixtieth North Carolina Regiments, 24 wounded, 3 mortally; Fifty-fourth Virginia Regiment, 12 men wounded.*

Respectfully,

A. W. REYNOLDS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major REEVE, *Asst. Adjt. Gen.*

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No. 37.

*Report of Maj. T. R. Hotchkiss, C. S. Artillery, commanding Artillery Battalion.*

HDQRS. HOTCHKISS' ARTILLERY BATTALION,
*In the Field, February 25, 1864.*

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that all the batteries of this battalion have been engaged to some extent to-day. Key's battery, the first to open fire on a brigade of infantry moving on the left of our line, distance about 700 yards, fired about nine shots per piece. One piece of Swett's battery was disabled by rifle projectile; another had pointing ring broken, but was soon repointed; the other section engaged a rifle battery of the enemy, forcing them to retire, distance about 1,700 yards. Loss, 1 man slightly wounded. Semple's battery engaged a rifle battery; effect good; enemy's battery driven from position. Loss, 1 man slightly wounded.

Very respectfully,

T. R. HOTCHKISS,
*Major, Commanding.*

Major REEVE, *Asst. Adjt. Gen.*

* According to nominal list, total casualties 3 killed, 42 wounded, and 1 missing.

No. 38.

*Report of Maj. James F. Waddell, C. S. Artillery, commanding Artillery Battalion.*

HDQRS. WADDELL'S ARTILLERY BATTALION,
*Near Dalton, February 25, 1864.*

MAJOR: In compliance with your instructions, I have the honor to state that this morning at 11 o'clock I was ordered to report to Major-General Stevenson with the battalion of artillery under my command. Between 12 o'clock and 1 o'clock I reported to the general, and was directed by him to hold one of my batteries in reserve and place the other in position upon his right, where the enemy was pressing us with his artillery and sharpshooters. The position was taken, and after a fight of three hours' duration we silenced three of the enemy's batteries, dismounting some of his pieces. My loss in this action was 3 men wounded and 1 horse killed. I had only four pieces engaged.

I am, major, very respectfully,

J. F. WADDELL,
*Major, Commanding Twentieth [Alabama] Artillery Battalion.*

Maj. JOHN J. REEVE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Stevenson's Division.*

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No. 39.

*Extract from Itinerary of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of Tennessee.*

February 27, pursued enemy's retreat to Ringgold. During these operations my loss was about 90 killed and wounded. Enemy's loss much greater. We captured some 50 prisoners.

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**FEBRUARY 25-26, 1864.—Scout from Whiteside's, Tenn., to Stevens' and Frick's Gaps, Ga.**

*Report of Col. Stephen J. McGroarty, Sixty-first Ohio Infantry, commanding Third Brigade, Third Division, Eleventh Army Corps.*

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., THIRD DIV., 11TH CORPS,
*Whiteside's, Tenn., February 26, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the scouting party which left here at 7 a. m. yesterday morning reported back here at 1 p. m. this day. They went to Frick's and Stevens' Gaps, saw no enemy and heard of none, except four companies of Home Guards stationed at Portersville, 3 miles beyond Lebanon. They are under command of Captains Weatherspoon, Davenport, Milsoaps, and Clifton. Parties of 4 or 5 come up to the gaps every few days. A foraging party of 30 men under command of a lieutenant were near there, who had taken all the meat and beef they could get and all

the spare clothing. A sister of one of the scouts just from Gadsden reports no troops near there, but that scouts pass frequently. Two deserters, who left Dalton on the night of the 23d, say that a large number of troops had been ordered to march next morning to Knoxville, and that they and many others had deserted in the night. They were on their way to Bridgeport. The people knew nothing about La Fayette, but say that Roddey is at Larkin's Landing, and suppose that the firing on the 22d or 23d was at that place. No rebel scouts have been seen this side of the gaps. Met one of the regular scouts from General Hooker's at Trenton, who was coming from McLemore's Cove, who reported having seen nothing.

Having nothing of importance from this vicinity to report, I have the honor to sign, respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. J. McGROARTY,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade and Post.*

Brig. Gen. W. D. WHIPPLE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**FEBRUARY 26, 1864.—Capture of Washington, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Robert K. Byrd, First Tennessee Infantry.**

LOUDON, *February* 28, 1864.

SIR: The following dispatch just received from Colonel Byrd, Kingston, dated February 27:

Champ Ferguson, with 150 men, made a raid on our courier-line last night at Washington, in Rhea County, killed the provost-marshal at that place, and captured all the couriers from there to Sulphur Springs, killing 1 and wounding 2 others. He carried off 11 horses and 11 repeating rifles.

G. GRANGER,
*Major-General.*

Major-General THOMAS.

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**FEBRUARY 28, 1864.—Skirmish at Dukedom, Tenn.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Hugh T. Reid, U. S. Army.*

[CAIRO,] *March* 1, 1864.

Colonel Hawkins telegraphs me that, hearing of a guerrilla party robbing on the Paducah railroad, he sent out a detachment on Saturday [27th] last, which, just before daylight Sunday morning, found a squad of rebels at Dukedom and dispersed them, capturing 1 prisoner, 4 horses, 4 loaded revolvers, 1 carbine, and the hats of perhaps the entire party.

H. T. REID,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Col. S. G. HICKS,
*Commanding at Paducah.*

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*See also Hughs' operations in Middle Tennessee, January 1–April 18, 1864, p. 55.

**MARCH 2-3, 1864.—Expedition from Larkin's Landing to Gourd Neck and Guntersville, Ala.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Giles A. Smith, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Col. John M. Oliver, Fifteenth Michigan Infantry (mounted).

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Giles A. Smith, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., SECOND DIV., 15TH ARMY CORPS,
*Larkinsville, Ala., March* 3, 1864.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the expedition under my command to Gourd Neck and Guntersville:

The forces, consisting of the Eighth Missouri and Fifty-fifth Illinois Infantry and the Fifteenth Regiment Michigan Infantry (mounted), together with Captain Latham's company, Alabama Cavalry, left Larkin's Landing at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 2d instant, with two days' rations, agreeable to your instructions. I marched with the infantry and 35 mounted men to Gourd Neck and directed Colonel Oliver, commanding Fifteenth Mounted Infantry, to take the road leading from Coffeetown to Guntersville, the object of the expedition being to capture the small force of Home Guards and such rebel cavalry as might be at that place.

At 2.30 o'clock on the morning of the 3d instant, Colonel Oliver sent one of his officers to me with the following verbal message, viz: That he had entered Guntersville about dark on the previous evening; that he had encountered a force of at least 4 to 1—600 men drawn up in line on foot, in the shape of a half-moon, at the end of the bridge over New Creek, near the edge of town—and been driven back with a loss of 3 killed and 2 wounded and captured; that he had retreated over Town Creek, about 8 miles this side of Guntersville; that he could not enter the town without a larger force, and that unless he received orders to the contrary from me he should return to Coffeetown that morning at the usual starting time, 7 or 8 o'clock.

I had only 35 mounted men to re-enforce him with, and to march the infantry to Guntersville and return would involve a two and a half days' march on one day's rations, and the whole movement being then known would only have resulted in the enemy's quietly retiring before our advance and again reoccupying the town as we withdrew. With this view I decided not to send him any orders, but to return to the landing at 9.30 that morning. I afterward learned, however, that had I sent any and the messenger had been as long returning as he was coming to me—four and a half hours—he would not have been there to receive them, as I am told he broke up camp and started for the bridge before daylight.

I arrived at the bridge a short time before Colonel Oliver, and learned with surprise from 2 of his men who had been sent ahead that only 50 or 60 men were sent to Guntersville; the remainder, with Colonel Oliver, remained at or near Town Creek, 5 miles this side. One of these men stated, in answer to my question of how many men he saw, that 50 or 60 mounted men was all he saw, and he did not think there were any more seen by any one.

Colonel Oliver soon arrived, and in a conversation with him the following information was elicited: That 80 men were sent to Guntersville, the remainder employed to guard the bridge over Town Creek, and the ford over Short Creek; that the force at Guntersville consisted of two and a half companies of Home Guards and a company of Confederate cavalry, the whole consisting in his opinion of 200 or 300 men; that he could have gone in, in daylight, but that he did not think it any object as they were apprised of his coming.

I learned from two British subjects from Atlanta, who stopped a day or two at Guntersville and left there on the night of the 1st, the forces there consisted of about 40 men. This estimate was corroborated by several citizens, and from all the facts I could gather I think 60 or 70 men a large estimate of the force. Entering the town at night with only a part of his force and riding over the bridge would almost of a necessity make a failure of the whole expedition, as mounted infantry are not going to ride through the fire of an enemy and into their ranks without the means of either attack or defense.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

GILES A. SMITH,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. MORGAN L. SMITH,
*Commanding Second Division.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Col. John M. Oliver, Fifteenth Michigan Infantry (mounted).*

SCOTTSBOROUGH, ALA.,
*March* 3, 1864.

SIR: I find since my return that it is necessary to see Major-General Logan in relation to the muster of my regiment. The horses I have had out are quite jaded, having traveled 50 miles yesterday and over 20 to-day. General G. A. Smith said he should try and repeat the expedition at once.

I write this to know whether you intend doing so within two or three days. If you do, I shall remain to accompany the expedition; if not, I shall go up to Huntsville in the morning. Please inform me by bearer.

The expedition was not a success. I had about 160 men and officers. General Smith took 26 of those to Gourd Neck. I had to guard Town Creek bridge in my rear and the ford across Short Creek. Reached the vicinity of Guntersville at twilight; advanced, crossed bridge over Little Creek, and reached the edge of the town, but were driven back, having no guide. Both advance and main body crossed on their horses; they were ignorant of localities. After recrossing the bridge they formed line and fired away. The rebels had an old levee to the left of the bridge on Brown's Creek, and could not be hurt at that time of day; and remembering your caution, "better do nothing than lose," I ordered all back.

The enemy have no force of consequence at Guntersville. Two companies (Smith's and May's) and part of Dillard's company, with one company of regular soldiers, is the garrison of the place under Colonel Newman. They have one company at Warrenton, 5 miles

down. Roddey is at Gadsden. I think the force at Guntersville numbers 300 about, not more. There are no boats there but two flat-boats, which will carry about 7 horses.

I am sure my information is accurate. I think, too, that I could improve on the plans for taking it so far, but I do not think the game worth the powder. Please inform me so that I may know whether to go or not this evening.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. OLIVER,
*Colonel Fifteenth Michigan Mounted Infantry.*

Brig. Gen. M. L. SMITH,
*Commanding Second Division.*

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## MARCH 5, 1864.—Skirmish at Leet's Tan-yard, Ga.

### REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Col. Thomas J. Harrison, Eighth Indiana Cavalry.

No. 3.—Extract from Itinerary of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of Tennessee.

### No. 1.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

RINGGOLD, GA.,
*March* 6, 1864—3 a. m.

GENERAL: Your note of 9 p. m. last night,* by courier, is just received.

Yesterday, about 3 o'clock, a messenger whom I had sent to Colonel Harrison returned with the news that Colonel Harrison had been driven from his camp, and had retired toward Lee's Mills. A company of Harrison's command, stationed this side of him, came back with the messenger. I thought it remarkable that Colonel Harrison, who was on my flank for the purpose of giving me warning of the movements of the enemy, should retire in the direction indicated and send me, the person most interested, no notice whatever. I did not believe the statement, but as I was at the same moment informed that cannon firing had been heard about 11 o'clock toward Cleveland, I thought it important. I therefore sent the cavalry company that had come in back, to go as far as Colonel Harrison's camp, and send me word as to what he could learn. About dark a messenger returned from him, confirming the report that Colonel Harrison had gone, but saying that he had come up at that place (Leet's Tan-yard) with the rear guard of a cavalry column returning toward Nickajack trail or Gordon's Gap. As my officer had but 20 men he fell back to a point about 4 miles from here, where the road forks, one branch leading to Nickajack trail and the other to

*See Part III, p. 23.

La Fayette. I directed him to remain at this place and watch well out on both roads, and to keep me informed. I then signaled you. I thought the enemy had retired, and asked to have Colonel Harrison again pushed out to his former position. I am inclined to think that the affair was simply a cavalry raid to gain information, but it may be connected with other movements elsewhere. I reported last night to General Palmer the number of wagons which I have. It is not sufficient to haul the property which is here, as every available team has been sent back to keep up our supply of forage. I will load such things as I can carry if compelled to fall back, and will destroy the rest. I don't apprehend now that such will be the case, but will have my command on the alert before daybreak.

The officer whom I sent to examine the Mission Mills road reports a portion between that place and Graysville as hardly passable for artillery, and the river too high to be passed without getting into the ammunition boxes. As to the Shallow Ford road, I can learn nothing of its condition. I hope, in case of necessity, to be able to go direct to Rossville. The Fourteenth and Thirty-eighth Ohio Regiments are encamped to-night somewhere near Pea Vine Creek, about 7 miles from here. This is a good position for them under the present circumstances. I will write you more fully of the condition of things here in the morning.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. BAIRD,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. Gen. G. H. THOMAS.

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RINGGOLD, *March* 6, 1864.

My party has returned from Lee's. Colonel Harrison was there. There were two brigades of rebel cavalry, Humes' and Davidson's. They came in by a gap this side of the Nickajack trail and returned same way.

A. BAIRD,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General THOMAS.

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No. 2.

*Report of Col. Thomas J. Harrison, Eighth Indiana Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY,
*Gordon and Lee's Mills, March* 8, 1864.

GENERAL: On Saturday morning, 5th instant, the enemy came through Nickajack Gap and over the ridge on either side in large force.

Dismounting the center, our outpost gradually fell back but lightly pressed by the enemy, while a heavy force on each flank on parallel roads moved rapidly toward our rear and attempted to surround us; but as we fell back across a muddy stream we tore up the bridge, forcing those in the rear to a great distance around. The right was not so prompt as the left.

We passed out, throwing our force on the left, which resulted in killing 3 of the enemy and wounding 6 or 7. Our casualties were 5 missing. I learn from citizens that 4 of them were prisoners, and the enemy claimed that they killed 1. The enemy at once retired. A prisoner taken says their force was 2,000, consisting of two brigades under General Wheeler, and that it was an attempt on Wheeler's part to capture us. Wheeler was much enraged, charging that treachery on the part of some of his men saved us.

The position we occupied is untenable. We have patrolled the country in that neighborhood each day, but one-half of our force should be in front of General Baird, patrolling south. I reported to General Davis, and received orders to remain here. One of my companies fell back toward General Baird, one was there before; so that General Baird has but two companies. If the Thirty-ninth was all at Ringgold and the Kentucky battalion here it would divide the force about equally.

I am, general, very respectfully,

T. J. HARRISON,
*Colonel, Commanding Cavalry.*

Brigadier-General WHIPPLE,
*Chief of Staff, Chattanooga, Tenn.*

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No. 3.

*Extract from Itinerary of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry, Army of Tennessee.*

Having crossed Taylor's Ridge with 600 men, attacked Harrison's Federal brigade, capturing their camps, wagons, stores, &c., with a number of prisoners; pursued enemy 10 miles.

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**MARCH 5, 1864.—Skirmish at Panther Springs, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Jacob D. Cox, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Col. William Cross, Third Tennessee Infantry.

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Jacob D. Cox, U. S. Army.*

NEW MARKET, TENN.,
*March* 6, 1864.

GENERAL: * * * In the skirmish yesterday the rebels lost 9 killed, including a major. We lost 3 killed, 1 badly wounded, and nearly 20 prisoners. We have 2 rebel prisoners. No further news from the front.

J. D. COX,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General SCHOFIELD.

No. 2.

*Report of Col. William Cross, Third Tennessee Infantry.*

HDQRS. THIRD REGT., EAST TENN. VOL. INFANTRY,
*Mossy Creek, Tenn., March 25, 1864.*

SIR: In obedience to the requirements of existing orders, I herewith report that on the 5th day of March, 1864, Capt. John H. Cross, of Company C, and his command of Second Lieut. L. B. Gamble, Company G; First Lieut. Jasper P. Buckellew, Company K, and First Lieut. Edward C. Roberts, Company H, and 100 enlisted men of Companies C, G, H, and K, while on a reconnaissance to Panther Springs, Tenn., were attacked by a cavalry force of the enemy, greatly superior in numbers, and had a sharp engagement for three or four hours, finally repulsing the enemy, killing and wounding several of them, with the loss of.*

All which is respectfully submitted.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. CROSS,
*Colonel, Comdg. Third Regt., East Tenn. Vol. Infantry.*

Col. E. D. TOWNSEND,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.*

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**MARCH 6, 1864.—Affair near Island No. 10, Tenn.**

*Report of Capt. Robert M. Ekings, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Island No. 10, Tenn., March 8, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the morning of the 6th instant I sent out a party of 12 men under the command of First Sergeant Connor, Company C, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry, to arrest a gang of 3 men who were reported to have murdered a negro the day previous; and also one Joseph Malady, a notorious guerrilla and horse-thief.

The detachment effected a landing on the Tennessee shore shortly after midnight, and proceeding up the river 7 miles made a careful search for the 3 men, but without success. They then surrounded the house where Malady was supposed to be concealed. Upon entering the house they found that he had effected his escape, having received a notification of the attempt to capture him from some source. A thorough search of the premises was made, and several rifles were found and a quantity of ammunition. As the party was returning to the island, those in advance, 6 in number, were fired upon from a thicket by the roadside by a company of guerrillas under the command of Captain Parks. Finding themselves greatly outnumbered, my men gradually fell back, skirmishing all the way, to the river bank, where, discovering an old raft, they got upon it and floated down to the island, arriving here safely about 8 p. m.

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* Nominal list (omitted) shows 2 killed and 22 captured.

I hardly need observe that had I known of the arrival of the guerrillas in the vicinity previous to sending out the force under Sergeant Connor, I should have sent a much stronger detachment. From the best information I can obtain I should judge that the guerrilla force under Parks and Bradford numbers from 75 to 125 strong.

The guns captured by my men were brought off safely, and also 3 horses.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. M. EKINGS,
*Capt. Company C, 34th New Jersey Infantry, Comdg. Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**MARCH 6, 1864.—Attack on Union Pickets at Columbus, Ky.**

*Report of Col. William H. Lawrence, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST,
*Columbus, Ky., March 7*, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that our pickets, consisting of a part of Company E, Second Tennessee Heavy Artillery, last night attacked and drove off about 30 guerrillas, who were in the act of getting between our breast-works and the brigade. There was no loss on our side. That of the enemy we could not ascertain, our pickets being too weak to follow them up and the night very dark. The captain speaks in high terms of the behavior of his men. The guerrillas also placed an obstruction on the railroad track about 2 miles beyond, but fortunately it was discovered before any mischief was done. I have taken proper measures to capture them if they return this evening.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. HUDSON LAWRENCE,
*Col. 34th Regt. New Jersey Volunteers, Commanding Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Cairo, Ill.*

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**MARCH 8, 1864.—Affairs at Courtland and Moulton, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, U. S. Army.*

PULASKI, *March* 11, 1864.

After taking Decatur I pushed my forces out under Lieutenant-Colonel Phillips. He captured Courtland, driving the enemy out, and followed them up, crossing the mountains, captured Moulton. We took a number of prisoners, a large amount of stores, and a large quantity of artillery and rifle ammunition; also 100 sacks of salt, stock, &c.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieutenant-Colonel BOWERS.

**MARCH 9, 1864.—Skirmish near Nickajack Gap, Ga.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird, U. S. Army.*

RINGGOLD, GA.,
*March* 9, 1864.

The report of cannon firing this morning was a mistake. Colonel Harrison skirmished an hour with a large force of rebels near Nickajack, and then fell back here; has pickets out 4 miles. The enemy is quiet in front, but there is a larger display of fires and signal lights than ever before.

A. BAIRD,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General THOMAS.

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**MARCH 10, 1864.—Guerrilla raid on Clinton, Ky.**

*Report of Col. William H. Lawrence, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry.*

COLUMBUS, KY.,
*March* 11, 1864.

CAPTAIN: Last night there was a raid made by about 40 guerrillas at Clinton. They captured some 35 or 40 mules and horses, which had been bought for the Government; they also broke open two stores, taking what they wanted. I telegraphed the facts to Colonel Hawkins, and sent out a company of mounted infantry in pursuit. It now becomes a military necessity, in my opinion, to prevent the large shipments of goods to these defenseless towns, and I shall give an order that in future all permits to take goods out of the lines of my pickets must be approved at these headquarters, without I receive an order from the general commanding the district to the contrary.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. HUDSON LAWRENCE,
*Colonel Thirty-fourth New Jersey Volunteers.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Cairo, Ill.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*March* 12, 1864.

Respectfully returned with instructions not to issue any such orders as the one within indicated; and if it has been issued, to revoke it.

H. T. REID,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

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**MARCH 10, 1864.—Guerrilla raid on Mayfield, Ky.**

*Report of Col. Stephen G. Hicks, Fortieth Illinois Infantry.*

PADUCAH, KY.,
*March* 12, 1864.

The guerrillas made another raid on Mayfield, on the 10th instant, robbing the stores of Union men, &c. Several of the citizens fled

to this place for safety, and are now here. I will send the detachment One hundred and twenty-second Illinois out there to garrison the place.

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. H. T. REID,
*Commanding District.*

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**MARCH 11–28, 1864.—Operations about Sparta, Tenn., including skirmishes on Calfkiller Creek and near Beersheba Springs.**

*Report of Col. William B. Stokes, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry.**

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Sparta, Tenn., March* 28, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of operations since my last report:

On the 11th instant, having heard of the enemy on Calfkiller, I sent out a scout of 80 men, under Captains Blackburn and Waters, in search of them. They met the enemy concentrated, numbering 150 men, 10 miles from this place, and after a stubborn and desperate resistance of 1 hour they succeeded in dispersing and running them into the mountains. The rebels lost 1 man killed and several wounded, the notorious Champ Ferguson being one of the latter. Our loss was 1 killed and 4 slightly wounded.

The next day I sent out a force of 200 men, but they were unable to find the enemy in any force. While out they succeeded in killing 7 Texas Rangers, men of the most daring and desperate character. Among these was Lieutenant Davis, the leader of the band. These men had been murdering and robbing Union citizens.

On the 15th, this force returned, and after feeding, 150 started in pursuit of Colonel Hughs, who had crossed Caney Fork on the 14th with the larger portion of his command.

On the morning of the 18th, the force attacked Hughs' camp at the foot of Cumberland Mountains, 2 miles from Beersheba Springs, utterly routing them, succeeding in killing 7 of their number. They were at breakfast and some were sleeping when attacked, and in the rout they threw away saddles, blankets, clothing, and arms. The entire force would have been captured or killed if they had not run up the mountain, where it was almost impossible for men to travel. Hughs had visited the railroad near Estill Springs, and was returning when attacked. We captured a number of saddles, arms, blankets, and clothing belonging to the Federals, and also Colonel Hughs' portfolio and papers. Our loss was 1 killed and 1 mortally wounded. The rebels at this fight were entirely dispersed, a great many being dismounted.

On the 20th, I sent out a force for the purpose of picking up stragglers and preventing them from again concentrating. They scoured Overton, Putnam, and Jackson Counties, but were unable to find the enemy in any force; they were out five days, and killed 5 men, among them Lieutenant Bowman. Captain Loure, of the guerrillas,

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* See also Hughs' operations in Middle Tennessee, January 1–April 18, 1864, p. 55.

was wounded during this scout. Captain Bledsoe was killed a few days previous by some of my men while foraging. Yesterday, learning that Carter was across Caney Fork, I immediately sent out a force to look after him. They were unable to find him, but succeeded in killing 1 of his men. Hughs' command is scattered over the entire country, no 10 of his men being together. They are merely trying to keep out of my way.

Since I arrived here my command has been constantly at work. At no one time has the command been idle. Forage has been scarce and hard to obtain. Over one-half of my command are dismounted, having worn out their horses by constant duty. No horses can be obtained in this country. I am proud to state that my officers and men have worked unremittingly, faithfully, and cheerfully in the discharge of their duties. A great number of soldiers have taken the amnesty oath, and the people manifest a friendly disposition toward the restoration of civil government.

Owing to the impossibility of obtaining forage of any kind in this country, I shall within a few days move the command to Chestnut Mound, some 25 miles from this place, where there is forage. While there I shall continue to scout the country designated in instructions from Major-General Thomas. Lieutenant-Colonel Corbin is here with a portion of the Fourteenth Regiment, U. S. Colored Troops, and is recruiting very rapidly.

I would once more respectfully call the attention of the general commanding to the necessity of mounting my command. To clear the country designated in instructions of guerrillas my men must be mounted. Without being considered impertinent, I would once more urge upon the authorities the advantages of arming my command with the Spencer rifle. It is useless to deny but that the command would be rendered much more effective. I will pledge my honor that if this command is armed with these guns, no regiment in the rebel service can defeat them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. STOKES,
*Colonel Fifth Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, Commanding.*

Capt. B. H. POLK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**MARCH 12, 1864.—Skirmish near Union City, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Isaac R. Hawkins, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry.*

UNION CITY,
*March* 14, 1864.

SIR: I reached my camp with my entire command at 3 p. m. this day. Have with me 30 prisoners, many of them of the worst cast. On the 12th, had a running fight for 10 miles with Captain Bolen's company with about an equal number of men commanded by Lieuts. R. Y. Bradford and Hawkins, in which 2 of the enemy were killed, 1 severely wounded, and 1 captured. We also captured 6 horses. Our loss nothing. The vote in my county (Carroll) was 1,326. In one district election broken up. Health of men excellent. My scouts proceeded within 8 miles of Jackson and 13 miles south of Lexing-

ton. The vote in Henderson was 564; in Weakley, something over 1,100. Advertisements were everywhere posted, threatening the people with severe punishment if they should vote. I shall report more at length in a day or two.

ISAAC R. HAWKINS,
*Colonel, Commanding Seventh Tennessee Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. H. T. REID,
*Commanding District.*

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**MARCH 12, 1864.—Scout to Nola Chucky Bend, near Morristown, Tenn.**

*Report of Capt. John W. Hammond, Sixty-fifth Indiana Infantry.*

HDQRS. DETCH. 2D BRIG., OUTPOST CHUCKY BEND ROAD,
*Near McFarland's Cross-Roads, Tenn., March* 13, 1864.

SIR: Having orders from Col. I. Garrard to report any discoveries to you, I have the honor to communicate the following facts:

That I made a scout to Chucky Bend yesterday about 2 p. m. I found no enemy there, but learned of the presence of one battalion of Rucker's Legion, about 200 strong, camped just above Bent Creek and only a short distance below the mouth of Lick Creek, 1¾ miles above the point where Chucky Bend road touches Chucky River, and exactly in the real bend of Chucky. This battalion sent a small scout after me, which was cut off by the Third Indiana Cavalry, which came down the river road shortly after I left the bend.

The enemy are still at the bend, and were in line of battle at daylight this morning, and were still in line at 8 a. m. They will doubtless await attack. I captured 1 prisoner who confirms the position of their troops, stating additionally that the Second Battalion of Rucker's Legion is camped some 3 miles farther up the same creek, and their first and nearest infantry support is some 3 miles in their rear and about 2½ miles from Bull's Gap. I learn also from many reliable sources that Buckner's and Jenkins' commands are at Bull's Gap; Johnson's near Blue Springs at Midway Depot, and McLaws' at Greeneville; that Longstreet left in person for Virginia Wednesday last, the general supposition being that he has gone to Richmond. Citizens say that the effort is strong on the part of the soldiers to create the belief that he is to return immediately, which would indicate that they have doubts.

Mr. James Broyles left vicinity of Greeneville Friday last at 12 (noon), and reports same facts in regard to enemy at and this side of Greeneville and in regard to Rucker's Legion, which he saw this a. m. He also reports that the enemy are mounting all the men they can, and that they are now trying to mount McLaws' division entire. He says that they have sent away four batteries that he knows of, and several others that reliable men told him had been sent off toward Virginia; as also that they have sent away nearly all their trains, only leaving three or four wagons to the brigade, using the mules of the trains and the horses of the batteries to mount their men on. He also says that they all (meaning the soldiers) say that they are to be joined by John Morgan this week with 2,000 cavalry, and that all this mounted force is to make a grand raid into Kentucky. I give this as he stated it. He also says they are transporting all the surplus of subsistence toward Virginia as fast as the cars can trans-

port it. Mr. Broyles, whose statements are corroborated by others, is quite an intelligent man and a shoemaker, who is flying the conscription. He says that everybody estimates their force at about 25,000 men within support of Bull's Gap.

It is reported that Dibrell's division (mounted) has left Newport, but this is vague.

You have doubtless ere this gained a knowledge of most of these reports, but hoping that I might furnish some new item I have been thus explicit and full in reporting.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN W. HAMMOND,
*Captain Sixty-fifth Indiana Volunteer Mounted Infty.*
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
*Ferrero's Division.*

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## MARCH 14, 1864.—Skirmish at Claysville, Ala.

### REPORTS.

No. 1.—Lieut. Col. Jeremiah W. Jenkins, Thirty-first Iowa Infantry.
No. 2.—Capt. William T. House, Thirty-second Missouri Infantry.

### No. 1.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Jeremiah W. Jenkins, Thirty-first Iowa Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRTY-FIRST IOWA VOLUNTEERS,
*Woodville, Ala., March* 16, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that on the 14th instant, in obedience to orders, I left camp about 11 a. m. with my command, and proceeded toward Claysville, Ala. I reached Reed's plantation, 5 miles from Claysville, about 5 p. m., where a train of eighteen wagons of the Second Brigade were awaiting our arrival, guarded by 20 men from the Twenty-ninth Missouri Infantry. I placed 108 of my men in the wagons, and proceeded that night with them to Claysville, leaving the remainder of the regiment at Reed's plantation under the command of Major Stimming. I found Captain House at Claysville with 30 men from the Twenty-ninth Missouri Infantry, and between 20 and 30 men from the Fourth and Ninth Iowa regiments.

On the morning of the 15th, the teams were loaded with forage near the town, and at 10 a. m. I started to return to camp with my command and the men commanded by Captain House, leaving no guard whatever at Claysville. About 3 p. m., when about 3 miles this side of Reed's plantation, I received an order to "remain at Cottonville, if not already past that place." I knew of no such place as Cottonville, but learned on inquiry that it was near Deposit, 10 miles from where we then were. I then continued the march to camp, and arrived here at 8 p. m.

While at Claysville I visited the bank of the river, from which I could distinctly see Guntersville and a few of the enemy moving about, but discovered nothing unusual. I also investigated the

numerous reports about citizens having conducted the party who made the attack, on the morning of the 14th, but I found nothing sufficiently reliable to justify making any arrests.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. JENKINS,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Thirty-first Iowa.*

Capt. W. A. GORDON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, 1st Div., 15th Army Corps.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Capt. William T. House, Thirty-second Missouri Infantry.*

WOODVILLE, ALA.,
*March* 15, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that about 3 a. m., 14th instant, my camp at Claysville, Ala., was attacked by a party of about 150 rebel cavalry (dismounted). The enemy had crossed the river below, and guided by citizens, avoided my patrols and sentinels, thus succeeding in surprising us. Rushing on my small party the enemy commenced firing and yelling with exultation. I tried to rally my men (a portion of whom fought like tigers), but it was of no great use, a number of my men being panic-stricken by the suddenness of the attack. Seeing that the greater portion had surrendered, I directed the rest to save themselves, but not to surrender. Returning to my quarters for my holsters, I put on my coat and cap. On coming out I found myself alone opposed to the enemy. To repeated appeals to surrender I returned a negative answer, and knocking the first man down with my revolver, I made a rush through the crowd. They made way for me, and I ran on, accompanied by the balls of the rebels, who immediately commenced firing after me, though, fortunately, without success. I then endeavored to find such of my men as had made their escape, but in the darkness found this impossible; so, making my way to Reed's plantation, I reached the mountain, where I found a small detachment of Twenty-ninth Missouri Infantry. From the officer in command I obtained a party of 23 men with whom, and a few of my own men, who had in the mean time joined me, I immediately returned to Claysville, but the enemy had already recrossed the river, taking our horses, mules, some clothing, and about 30 prisoners with them.

My casualties are 1 killed and 3 wounded. The rebel loss 5 killed and 6 wounded. Captain Smith, who commanded the rebels, was shot through the abdomen by myself.

I will forward a nominal list* of casualties as soon as it can be made up.

Respectfully, your most obedient servant,

WM. T. HOUSE,
*Capt. 32d Missouri Infantry, Comdg. Mounted Infantry.*

Capt. W. A. GORDON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General First Division.*

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*List shows 1 man killed, 2 wounded, and 55 missing.

**MARCH 14, 1864.—Operations in Jones County, Miss.**

*Report of Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk, C. S. Army.*

DEMOPOLIS, *March* 17, 1864.

GENERAL: The expedition I caused to be made under Colonel Maury against the traitors and murderers of Jones and other counties in Southern Mississippi has succeeded in killing and capturing a number of their ringleaders and breaking up their bands. A salutary effect has been produced upon that infected district, and many of the deserters are now coming in.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector-General.*

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**MARCH 16, 1864.—Raid on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, near Tullahoma, Tenn.**

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Maj. Adolphus H. Tanner, One hundred and twenty-third New York Infantry.
No. 2.—Capt. George R. Hall, One hundred and twenty-third New York Infantry.

No. 1.

*Report of Maj. Adolphus H. Tanner, One hundred and twenty-third New York Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS 123D NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS,
*Elk River Railroad Bridge, Tenn., March* 17, 1864—5 p. m.

GENERAL: I have the honor to make the following report:

The patrol sent out by me on the railroad toward Tullahoma, as reported yesterday, came upon a band of rebels about 3 miles from this post, just as they had thrown a train of cars from the track, had taken the passengers prisoners, and were engaged in robbing them and destroying the train. My men drove the enemy, rescued the prisoners, and saved most of the train. I have this day received information that this rebel force, numbering 110 men, well mounted on horses marked "C. S.," came from the direction of the mountains back of Hillsborough, and retreated in that direction. They murdered several non-combatants (negroes) and robbed all their prisoners of their money, jewels, and clothing.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
A. H. TANNER,
*Major 123d New York Vols., Commanding Post.*

Brig. Gen. W. D. WHIPPLE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*See also Colonel Hughs' report of operations in Middle Tennessee, January–April, 1864, p. 55.

No. 2.

*Report of Capt. George R. Hall, One hundred and twenty-third New York Infantry.*

ESTILL SPRINGS, TENN.,
*March* 17, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that yesterday (16th) at 1 p. m. I received intelligence of a citizen by the name of Martin Hays, sent by a citizen named John P. Hefner, who tends a grist-mill about 2 miles from this post, that a band of rebel cavalry from 70 to 100 strong had been at his house and passed on up toward the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, and said they were going to throw off the first train of cars from Tullahoma and then blow up the bridge across Elk River.

On receiving this intelligence, I immediately reported it to Major Tanner, commanding One hundred and twenty-third Regiment New York Volunteers, and re-enforced my pickets accordingly, and awaited orders from the major; but receiving no definite orders and awaiting sufficient time for my patrols to return, not having sufficient force here to leave the stockade safe and meet the enemy, I took the engine of the construction train, which was here, and went to the regiment and reported the facts to the major, who immediately sent Company C to take the place of my company (E) and sent my company in pursuit of the enemy.

At 4.45 p. m. I left camp, marching with the main part of my company on the railroad, having a line of skirmishers on each side of the road a reasonable distance in advance. After proceeding nearly 1½ miles I saw a train coming from Tullahoma, and watched it until it ran off the track, and heard the firing on the train. It was about one-half mile in advance of my skirmishers. I then filed to the right into the woods and took the double-quick step in order to flank them, but they had got notice of my approach and commenced a retreat. I came up on their flank, opening upon them, which was returned by them, but made no stand of any account; formed line of battle twice, but as soon as we fired upon them they turned and ran. I pursued them about 1½ miles, when my men became so much exhausted that farther pursuit would have been useless and I returned to the wreck, where I found the cars on fire, but succeeded in extinguishing the fire so that but three cars were burned. The engine was but little injured.

During the fighting, men captured from the cars were recaptured, and in about one hour the remainder of the prisoners came in—7 of the Twenty-seventh Indiana and 2 men of Company E, One hundred and twenty-third New York Volunteers; also Captain Beardsley, of the Twentieth Connecticut, and Lieutenant Williams. All were robbed of everything valuable, not excepting their clothing. Two men of the First Michigan Engineers were wounded; also a citizen by the name of Stockwell—the latter seriously, the ball having passed through the left lung. One negro was killed and 1 wounded. The prisoners report that the rebels were commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Hughs, formerly of the Twenty-fifth Tennessee. The names of the other officers I could not learn. One of my company that is reliable told me that he counted 97 men, while a prisoner, and at the time 15 or 20 were out after the other patrols. The man spoken of above of my company was one of the patrols who were captured. They were

armed with carbines and rifles. The last I heard of them they passed the mill about 2 miles from here at dark, apparently in great haste. Two of their men were killed, and 1 seriously wounded. I captured three saddles and one carbine. Had I been a few minutes earlier I could have saved the train, and think killed or captured most of them.

GEORGE R. HALL,

[*Capt. One hundred and twenty-third New York Volunteers.*]

Brig. Gen. A. S. WILLIAMS.

## MARCH 16-APRIL 14, 1864.—Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky.

### SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Mar. 24, 1864.—Capture of Union City, Tenn.
25, 1864.—Attack on Paducah, Ky.
27, 1864.—Skirmish at Columbus, Ky.
29, 1864.—Skirmish near Bolivar, Tenn.
Apr. 3, 1864.—Skirmish near Raleigh, Tenn.
9, 1864.—Skirmish near Raleigh, Tenn.
11, 1864.—Skirmish at Columbus, Ky.
12, 1864.—Capture of Fort Pillow, Tenn.
13, 1864.—Skirmish at Columbus, Ky.
14, 1864.—Skirmish at Paducah, Ky.

### REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Mason Brayman, U. S. Army, commanding District of Cairo.
No. 2.—Capt. James H. Odlin, Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, of operations March 24–26.
No. 3.—Capt. John W. Beatty, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Union City.
No. 4.—Capt. Thomas P. Gray, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Union City.
No. 5.—Lieut. Robert W. Helmer, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Union City.
No. 6.—Col. Stephen G. Hicks, Fortieth Illinois Infantry, of attack on Paducah, etc.
No. 7.—Maj. James F. Chapman, One hundred and twenty-second Illinois Infantry, of attack on Paducah.
No. 8.—Col. William H. Lawrence, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry, of affairs at Columbus, etc.
No. 9.—Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps, of the capture of Fort Pillow.
No. 10.—Lieut. Col. Thomas H. Harris, Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, of the garrison at Fort Pillow, etc.
No. 11.—Capt. John G. Woodruff, One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry, of the capture of Fort Pillow.
No. 12.—Lieut. Mack J. Leaming, Adjutant Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Fort Pillow.

*See also Report No. 65, House of Representatives, Thirty-eighth Congress, first session; and reports of Capt. Alexander M. Pennock, U. S. Navy, in Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 5, 1864.

No. 13.—Lieuts. Francis A. Smith and William Cleary, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Fort Pillow.

No. 14.—Capt. Carl A. Lamberg, Battery D, Second U. S. Colored Light Artillery, of the capture of Fort Pillow.

No. 15.—Capt. William T. Smith, Sixth U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery, of the capture of Fort Pillow.

No. 16.—Lieut. Daniel Van Horn, Sixth U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery, of the capture of Fort Pillow.

No. 17.—Acting Master William Ferguson, U. S. Navy, of the capture of Fort Pillow.

No. 18.—Brig. Gen. George F. Shepley, U. S. Army, of affairs April 12.

No. 19.—Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, of operations March 6–April 7.

No. 20.—Brig. Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, of operations April 3–5.

No. 21.—Col. George E. Waring, jr., Fourth Missouri Cavalry, commanding First Brigade, of skirmish near Raleigh, April 3.

No. 22.—Maj. John C. Febles, Seventh Indiana Cavalry, of operations March 28–30 and April 9.

No. 23.—Maj. P. Jones Yorke, Second New Jersey Cavalry, of skirmish near Bolivar.

No. 24.—Maj. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, U. S. Army, transmitting correspondence with Lieut. Gen. Stephen D. Lee and Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army.

No. 25.—Lieut. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, of the capture of Fort Pillow, etc.

No. 26.—Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry.

No. 27.—Capt. John Goodwin, Provost-Marshal-General.

No. 28.—Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding First Division Cavalry, of the capture of Fort Pillow.

## No. 1.

### *Reports of Brig. Gen. Mason Brayman, U. S. Army, commanding District of Cairo.**

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*March* 24, 1864.

SIR: On yesterday dispatches reached me from Col. I. R. Hawkins, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, at Union City, that Forrest's cavalry, 7,000 strong, with artillery, were approaching by way of Jackson and Trenton. Rumors to the same effect came from other sources.

Being convinced that an attack was meditated, and desiring more reliable information as to its magnitude and its object, I sent Captain Odlin, assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff, by special boat and train, with instructions to report from Union City at the earliest moment the true state of affairs.

Arriving at Columbus, Ky., he advised me of an attack immediately impending, and that aid would be required. I communicated to Captain Fox, assistant adjutant-general of the Fourth Division

* See also Brayman's dispatches to Sherman, March 24, 26, and April 14 (Part III, pp. 144, 159, 361).

(then in Cairo awaiting orders to move), informing him of the expectation of a necessity to call for 2,000 men for this service, to which he responded, placing the force at my disposal. I was aware that the Fourth Division was awaiting orders for movement up the Tennessee, but as General Veatch was absent, transports yet to come from St. Louis, and as I had no disposable force of my own, I made available this only mode of repelling an advance of the enemy, which threatened not only Union City, but Columbus, Hickman, and Paducah.

On reaching Union City Captain Odlin found the pickets driven in, and almost immediately the wire was cut, preventing further communication with me. This indicated the presence of the enemy on the railroad between Union City and Columbus. Having instructions not to endanger the engine and train, he immediately returned to Columbus, passing over the burning superstruction a few miles this side of Union City. From Columbus I was advised by him and by Colonel Lawrence, commanding that post, that Colonel Hawkins could probably hold out until aid would reach him.

At 9 this morning I left Cairo with the Thirty-fifth New Jersey, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry, and Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, Lieutenant-Colonel Rusk, being part of First Brigade, Colonel Montgomery, and the Thirty-second Wisconsin, Major De Groat, and Seventeenth New York, Colonel Grower, part of the Second Brigade, Colonel Howe, about 2,000 strong, and taking Sparrestrom's battery and a party of mounted scouts on board, started at 3 p. m. for Union City, having been informed, however, that the road had been disabled by the burning of a bridge. Arriving at a station —— miles this side of Union City I learned with great pain and surprise that Colonel Hawkins had surrendered at 11 a. m., and had with his force been removed and his fortifications destroyed.

The force of the enemy does not appear to have been more than a fourth of the number represented, and without artillery. The number of men surrendered is probably 500, some 75 having escaped. All were armed and equipped ; about 300 mounted. A few mules, three wagons, and an inconsiderable amount of public property were lost and destroyed. I learn that Colonel Hawkins' command had been recently paid for over a year's service, and that the aggregate of individual loss, on the part of the officers and soldiers, will reach some $60,000.

The object of the expedition being thus defeated, I immediately returned the command to Columbus, and re-embarked the troops belonging to the Fourth Division on transports and returned them to Cairo, to be ready for their expected movement up the Tennessee on the morrow. Had the troops been at my further disposal I should have gone forward to Union City and proceeded to [drive] from this district all hostile forces and irregular bands now infesting it, but my instructions from General Sherman (received after my arrival at Columbus) being imperative not to divert these regiments from their designed movements up the river I could not do otherwise than replace them, for though I was willing to risk much to relieve and rescue a force supposed to be yet engaged in gallant defense, I could do nothing to mitigate even the accomplished misfortune of a surrender.

I omitted to state that anticipating a probable attack upon Hickman, defended by a small company and one gun, I this morning withdrew that force. With the approbation of my superior officer

I proposed to leave Hickman, Union City, and such inconsiderable points without defense, holding only such points as are of military importance and necessary to the safety of the river. I find these small posts but dens for the smugglers, contraband dealers, and convenient for supplying the guerrillas of the interior, and am satisfied that these enemies of the public peace receive benefits and an abundance of supplies through the facilities afforded by one small garrison and loose trade regulations, much more valuable to them and disgracefully damaging to us than under their own occupation. The expedition of to-day was characterized by gallantry and good conduct of officers and men, and by freedom from casualties of any kind.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. T. H. HARRIS,
*Assistant-Adjutant General.*

—

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., March* 26, 1864—12 m.

GENERAL: The rebels went from Union City to Paducah, evidently joined by another force, arriving about 4,000 strong.

Colonel Hicks had about 500 men of all kinds. Two gun-boats lay in the river. The attack began about 1 p. m. yesterday. Colonel Hicks occupied the fort. The enemy entered the town, occupying houses, from which their sharpshooters killed and wounded several of our men.

The gun-boats and the fort opened upon the town. The inhabitants abandoned it, large numbers being brought across the river. The battle lasted until midnight, Colonel Hicks being severely pressed but holding his ground most gallantly. The enemy then retired, with loss of several hundred killed and wounded. The town, being occupied by the rebels, was mostly destroyed and is still in flames.

A dispatch from Captain Odlin, my adjutant, advises me that the attack is expected to be renewed. I have, however, sent re-enforcements, which are on the spot, and supplies are on the way. The gun-boats performed good service, and suffered from sharpshooters.

General Veatch is moving from the wharf, and will aid if needed. I have not particulars; the fight severe, and the conduct of Colonel Hicks noble.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. Gen. S. A. HURLBUT,
*Commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.*

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HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., March* 26, 1864—5 p. m.

GENERAL: The rebels have been beaten at Paducah. Captain Odlin, my assistant adjutant-general, informs me, since mine to you at 12 m. to-day, that their loss is Brig. Gen. A. P. Thompson and 300 men; wounded not known.

It appears that it was Faulkner, without artillery, with 1,500 infantry who took Union City, while Forrest with 4,000 and a battery were going to Paducah, and that they united in the attack. I am advised of 12 killed and 40 wounded on our side; it will probably exceed that. Forrest sent flag of truce three times, threatening no quarter if refused. Colonel Hicks and his command have behaved in the most gallant manner. The report says: "The negroes fought bravely, and worked the siege guns splendidly." The two gun-boats, as they always do, did their work well.

The rebels held the town, and from buildings near the fort annoyed the garrison. I am gratified to inform you that the town was shelled and made a ruin over their heads. Colonel Hicks had warned the people of the probable necessity of doing this, their rebel instincts rendering it quite certain that the town would have not been thus occupied without their consent. Under these circumstances the result is important, and the damage to the town to be scarcely regretted.

The enemy retreated toward Mayfield. I am warned to watch for a demonstration upon Columbus, perhaps Cairo. The line is already down between here and Columbus. The whole force there for duty is 988; of all kinds here, 218. Paducah had 408.

The Fourth Division has left. General Veatch will stop at Paducah a few hours. His orders from General Sherman to move being imperative he could not promise to delay, but did give me hope of aid if attacked here. You are aware that Mound City and Cairo supply our river navy, and, to a large extent, our army below; to lose these would be a repetition on a greater scale of Holly Springs. I do not expect to lose either point, but do consider the danger imminent. Where is Grierson's Ford?

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. Gen. S. A. HURLBUT,
*Commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.*

[Inclosures.]

*Extract made from [log of] Steam-boat Tycoon.*

Paducah was in flames when this boat passed at 8 a. m. (26th). Gun-boats were patrolling the river in front of the city. Steamer White Cloud was a short distance below the city on the Kentucky shore unloading troops. Steamers Louisville and Iowa were ferrying citizens across to the Illinois shore. The stars and stripes were floating over the fort. Met Liberty No. 2 at Metropolis.

H. A. SWEET,
*Clerk.*

FROM NORTH SIDE OF RIVER,
*Paducah, March* 26, 1864.

Lieutenant MASON,
*Cairo:*

The troops from Cairo just arrived. The enemy attacked us right after dinner yesterday. We only had five or ten minutes' notice of their approach. They attacked us in the fort about 1.30 or 2 o'clock, but we kept them off. After firing on us for some time, they sent in

a flag of truce demanding surrender, and if not complied with, he would make an assault on fort, and no quarter would be given. The colonel answered that he would obey his superior officer's order and not surrender. Their main force then retired into the center of the town to pilfer and plunder, while their sharpshooters kept in houses near the fort, picking off our men. There are about 10 or 12 of our side killed, and 40 wounded; on the rebels' 200 to 300, among whom is the rebel Colonel Thompson. His head was knocked off his shoulders. The negroes fought bravely, and worked the siege guns splendidly. They burned headquarters and quartermaster's buildings. Our forces are burning town nearest the fort. The gun-boats did good execution. Might say we ran out of ammunition, and could not have held out long. Fortunate they did not make an assault. They ceased firing at 11 o'clock last night. I had not time to fix my wires till they surrounded us. My office and property are safe. No officers killed.

OPERATOR.

COLUMBUS, KY.,
*March* 27, 1864—11.30 a. m.

Maj.-Gen. S. A. HURLBUT,
*Commanding Sixteenth Army Corps, Memphis, Tenn.:*

DEAR GENERAL: General Veatch declined aid and left Paducah at daylight this morning. Faulkner, after taking Union City with 1,500 men, went to Hickman, robbed it, and last night was on his way to meet Forrest, who was to join him after taking Paducah. Scouts just in and Hawkins' men who escaped from Faulkner on the way to Hickman, tell the same story, and Colonel Hicks telegraphed me at 10 this morning that his scouts say the same. Forrest is evidently coming back according to arrangements without succeeding at Paducah. If not too much crippled, their presence here may be expected. I came down in the night with all the men not on provost duty at Cairo, only 200 however, and shall stay until the result transpires. I regret the smallness of my force, but shall do very well with this. Do not be disturbed if Grierson is within your call. Can he not cut off this force while in this corner? They are taking horses and property in the interior. I can only take care of the river. Colonel Hicks telegraphed me that his scouts killed the rebel guerrilla Colonel Crampman [Crossland?] and 7 of his men 6 miles south of Mayfield at 10 o'clock last night.

Respectfully, yours,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

—

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., March* 30, 1864.

COLONEL: After parting with General Hurlbut at 3 a. m. of the 25th, I returned to Cairo in time to look to Paducah. I borrowed two regiments of General Veatch and sent them up. Colonel Hicks and the gun-boats had beaten the enemy in a series of desperate engagements before the aid arrived.

After daylight on Saturday, the 26th, the enemy came up but made no attack. Colonel Hicks not having reported, I cannot furnish authentic particulars.

On the night of the 26th demonstrations again were made toward Columbus. I went down with all the men that could be spared from this place—about 200; no attack followed, but during the next day I had information of the presence of the enemy at Moscow and Clinton, 10 miles out, and of their disposition to attack during the night of Sunday. They did not, but fell back to Mayfield. Fearing another attack on Paducah, I returned and advised Colonel Hicks, sending him ammunition and supplies. He, last night at 8.30, telegraphed me that they were again approaching, and that he had drawn the convalescents into the fort and was ready. The Westmoreland, with the First Alabama Cavalry, had just left for the Tennessee. She was ordered by telegraph to report to Colonel Hicks. The Fortieth Illinois Infantry (Colonel Hicks' regiment) being here awaiting transportation home by rail, was put on board the Raymond, and at 5 this a. m., in time for an attack just impending, reported, adding about 800 men to Colonel Hicks' means of defense.

It is now noon, and I have no further information. I am satisfied from the concentration of the enemy at Mayfield, from their threats and plans made known to me by those hearing them, and from the reports of Colonel Hicks, that they intend an attack. Their parties, their spies, and scouts are near us on the opposite bank. Some have been across, and the utmost vigilance is necessary, as they seem disposed to tire us out, catch us unprepared at some point, and retrieve their loss.

I have information just from Columbus about 500 furloughed rebels in the vicinity to concentrate to-day.

I think all will go south without further attack.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. T. H. HARRIS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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CAIRO, ILL.,
*April* 16, 1864—9 p. m.

Fort Pillow destroyed, evacuated, and guns removed. The river is clear. The transports accumulated here are going down. A gunboat lies off Fort Pillow to protect them. The printed accounts of the massacre fall short of the reality. An investigation and report will be made. The enemy still threaten Paducah and Columbus, but cannot take them. One hundred guerrillas fired on gun-boat opposite Metropolis last night without effect. Memphis undisturbed, but guerrillas along the river.

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

ADJUTANT-GENERAL UNITED STATES.

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CAIRO, ILL.,
*June* 6, 1864.

SIR: I transmit herewith a printed copy of my report of operations in the District of Cairo during my brief command. For convenience, to save writing, it was printed, not published.

I am desirous that the evident inadvertence through which I am out of command may be corrected. When I reported to General

Sherman at Vicksburg the subject of my going to Natchez was mentioned, but that had been provided for, and I was assigned to General Hurlbut and to Cairo. Now I am, though not relieved, superseded.

Yours, &c.,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers.*

Lieut. Col. R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

—

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., May 2, 1864.*

SIR: I beg leave, respectfully, to report operations within this district during the period of my command:

On March 16, being then at Memphis, I was assigned by Special Orders, No. 61, headquarters Sixteenth Army Corps, to the District of Cairo, relieving Brig. Gen. Hugh T. Reid.

Arriving at 3 a. m. of the 19th, I entered upon duty at 11 the same morning, headquarters being at Cairo.

My command comprised the rivers from the mouth of the Tennessee to Island 10, 160 miles, with interior territory in Western Kentucky and Tennessee.

Occupied places, with the force at each, were as follows: Paducah, Col. S. G. Hicks, 408 men; Cairo, Col. J. I. Rinaker, 231 men; Columbus, Col. William H. Lawrence, 998 men; Hickman, Capt. J. W. Cogswell, 51 men; Island 10, Capt. R. M. Ekings, 162 men; Union City, Col. I. R. Hawkins, 479 men; aggregate, 2,329 men. About three-fourths of these men were colored—a portion of them, say 500—not yet mustered into service, and commanded by officers temporarily assigned awaiting commission. Of the white troops at river posts, one-half were on detached local duty, as guards, &c.

The fortifications were in a broken condition, unfinished and neglected. Guns were dismounted and otherwise unfit for service. Ammunition was deficient and defective. A body of cavalry at Paducah were not mounted, and only part of those at Union City.

Mound City, attached to the post of Cairo, 8 miles above, on the Ohio, was guarded by some 50 invalids; that was the naval station and depot of the Mississippi Squadron, where gun-boats received their repairs, armaments, crews, and supplies. Public property averaging $5,000,000 in value was constantly at that point. Capt. A. M. Pennock was in charge. At Cairo, also, in addition to a naval wharf-boat and other floating depositories of arms, munitions, and naval supplies for the Western Navy, amounting to many millions in value, were transports and shipping laden with army supplies. In a word, the operations of the army and navy of the Mississippi and its dependencies on either side depended upon the safety of the public property at the two points named.

The river towns and those portions of Kentucky and Tennessee not in possession or under the shadow of our arms, were under insurrectionary control. Between those rebels who had taken the oath and remained within our lines and their brothers who were in arms without, full fraternity and correspondence existed. I found the interior portions of the district, therefore, infested by armed bands of guerrillas, engaged in murder and pillage, and supplied by their

friends at our posts with such articles as the spoil of their loyal neighbors failed to yield.

The laxity of trade regulations, the activity of disloyal persons who, having taken the oath, carried on illicit traffic under our protection and favor, and, too often, the complicity of our own officers who shared their crimes and their profits, constituted the efficient means by which disloyalty was fed and the enemy encouraged to remain; honest, loyal men of course being the deepest sufferers.

That section was of course the scene of constant depredations, spreading alarms, and often exciting expectations of formidable attacks upon our occupied posts.

On the 23d of March, Colonel Hawkins, commanding at Union City, 26 miles from Columbus, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, advised me that he apprehended trouble—Colonel Hicks also reporting threatening demonstrations in his neighborhood—apparently the work of the armed bands infesting the country. At night Colonel Hawkins reported Forrest at Jackson, Tenn., 61 miles distant, with 7,000 men. The result proved him much nearer. I took measures to ascertain the condition of things and afford needed relief.

Of my own command I had not over 150 men for movement, and these only by leaving Cairo in charge of a provost-marshal's guard. However, some regiments and detachments of General Veatch's Fourth Division, of the Sixteenth Army Corps, were awaiting at this point the arrival of transports from Saint Louis, to carry them up the Tennessee, under urgent orders from General Sherman.

General Veatch being at Evansville, Ind., I applied to Captain Fox, his assistant adjutant-general, who consented to place at my disposal 2,000 men, if needed during the night, I engaging to return them in time to go forward without delay on arrival of their boats. General Sherman telegraphed me: "Has General Veatch and command started up the Tennessee? If not, start them at once!"

Down to this time it was uncertain whether Paducah or Union City was the real object of attack. I informed Colonel Hawkins by telegraph that he would receive aid, directing him to fortify and keep well prepared. At about 4.30 o'clock in the morning of the 24th, I became satisfied that Union City was the point of attack. Boats were taken and I embarked at 10 with the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, Lieutenant-Colonel Rusk; the Thirty-fifth New Jersey, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry, being part of the First Brigade, under Colonel Montgomery; and the Thirty-second Wisconsin, Major De Groat, and Seventeenth New York, Colonel Grower, part of the Second Brigade under Colonel Howe, numbering about 2,000 men.

Disembarking at Columbus and taking cars, with the addition of Sparrestrom's battery and a few scouts, I proceeded 20 miles—within 6 miles of Union City—and there learned with pain and surprise that Colonel Hawkins had surrendered at 11 a. m., and had, with his force, been removed and his fortifications destroyed. I immediately returned, and at 3 o'clock the next morning delivered General Veatch's regiments at Cairo, ready to go up the Tennessee.

While going out from Columbus I received the following dispatch from General Sherman, then at Nashville:

* * * I am willing he (Forrest) should be up in that neighborhood if the people don't manifest friendship. Don't divert any troops bound up the Tennessee on that account.

No other available force being at my disposal, the movements of the enemy and the length of his stay in the interior and the question of fighting or expelling him were not for my consideration, except as

related to the safety of the posts on the rivers. With respect to Union City, it was my purpose to bring in the garrison and have General Veatch's men at Cairo in time to comply with General Sherman's order concerning them. While I was willing to risk much to relieve and rescue a garrison supposed to be yet engaged in gallant defense, I could do nothing to mitigate the accomplished misfortune of a surrender. So far as I have information, the force to which the surrender was made falls short of 1,500, and without artillery—the larger portion of Forrest's army, say 4,000, having gone north in the direction of Paducah.

Colonel Hawkins, being a prisoner, had no opportunity to report. I supply the deficiency by furnishing herewith (marked A and B) the official statements of Capt. T. P. Gray and Lieut. R. W. Helmer, of Colonel Hawkins' command, who participated in the battle, were included in the surrender, and afterward escaped.

When it is considered that the garrison was within substantial fortification; that the enemy had no artillery; that they had been three times repulsed; that the loss of the garrison was insignificant, and the men anxious to fight, and that aid was at hand, it is to be regretted that a flag of truce should have produced a result which arms had failed to achieve.

I add that on the morning of the 24th, anticipating an attack upon Hickman, I sent a boat and brought away the small garrison. While holding firmly the strong points on the river, so as to protect their navigation, I deprecate the policy of occupying exposed points with feeble garrisons. Such places are subject to capture and serve but an evil purpose, being too often mere dens of smugglers and contraband traders from whence the guerrilla bands draw their supplies, the occupancy benefiting, not us, but them.

A force of some 1,200 afterward went to Hickman, and without molestation carried off large quantities of supplies.

On the 25th, Paducah was attacked. I herewith furnish a copy of the official report of Colonel Hicks (marked C), inviting special attention thereto.

The defense was conducted with conspicuous gallantry. The conduct of Colonel Hicks and his entire command was noble in the highest degree.

Colonel Hicks, though suffering and partially disabled by wounds received at Pittsburg Landing, met every responsibility, braved every danger, and performed every duty with the vigor of youth, the judgment of the experienced soldier, and the pluck of a hero who knows not how to fail. I commend him to the favorable notice of the Government. I cannot refrain from special reference to the fidelity and courage of the black soldiers, who, though not mustered nor paid, and without regular organization or officers, fought bravely and patiently to the end.

Attention is also called to the threat of indiscriminate slaughter made by Forrest, should his demand for a surrender be refused. An intimation of the same character was made at Union City and afterward at Columbus. The shocking manner in which these threats were carried into effect at Fort Pillow proves that the rebel leaders deliberately intended to perpetrate the crimes which were there committed.

During the engagement a portion of the city of Paducah was destroyed. This was necessary. The rebels took possession of the town, our forces retiring to the fort. Their sharpshooters fired with

deadly effect upon our men at the guns from the windows of houses; they also fired upon the gun-boats from buildings fronting the river. It was necessary to dislodge them. It was done.

There are a few loyal families in Paducah. I learn with regret that some of these were damaged. I have no regrets for the losses of those who sympathized with the enemy; who invited and welcomed them. It is true that many such have taken the oath and wear a disguise of loyalty, but only to enjoy more fully the benefits of trade and safe means of aiding their friends in arms. I feel assured that the attack would not have been made unless invited, and am satisfied that the retribution which the necessities of war brought upon the city falls far short of that which justice wou'd warrant. After the repulse the enemy retired, and on the 27th threatened Columbus. I repaired to that point with such available men as were at hand (General Veatch's men having gone up the Tennessee) and awaited an attack. Slight skirmishing occurred, but without results.

The enemy remained for the succeeding two weeks in the immediate vicinity, engaged in depredations upon the property of unarmed citizens, stealing horses, enforcing the conscription, and carrying away the supplies of goods which had accumulated in the neighborhood and awaited their coming.

On April 13, a force appeared in front of Columbus. I furnish report of Colonel Lawrence, commanding, with the correspondence growing out of the demand for a surrender, marked D. No attack was probably intended, but the terms in which the surrender was demanded are significant in connection with the massacre at Fort Pillow.

On the succeeding day, the 14th, an attempt was made on Paducah, for details of which, and the conduct of the rebels, reference is made to the report of Colonel Hicks herewith submitted, marked E. This report discloses the same gross violations of the flag of truce and depredations committed under its protection, as on almost every occasion where that emblem was resorted to. The facts show that in nearly every case the flag of truce was sent forward for unlawful purposes.

I judge the forces of Forrest which remained so near us for some three weeks to number 6,500, with a battery of light artillery. Reference to the maps will indicate the advantages which such a force of mounted men possessed. After the loss of Union City I had about 1,700 men occupying the river posts from Paducah to Island 10, 160 miles. The river from Columbus to Paducah is a circle, 70 miles by river, about 40 by land. The enemy, lying midway and equidistant from Paducah, Cairo, and Columbus, a few hours' ride brought them in front of either. These places were protected by shifting disposable forces from one to another, governed by the enemy's movements.

Regiments or detachments accidentally detained here were used on pressing occasions, being promptly furnished by officers in command. But such forces, being destined to other points of duty, could not be used though urgently applied for.

On the 3d of April, Major-General Sherman telegraphed me:

> The more men Forrest has, and the longer he stays about Mayfield, the better for us. * * *

And on the 13th:

> * * * I hope Forrest will prolong his visit in that neighborhood. * * *

Thus it is apparent that in addition to my having no force at my disposal adequate to the pursuit and expulsion of Forrest from the neighborhood, that result was not desirable. The whole matter was settled by my superior officers, in whose comprehensive plans the one act transpiring here was but a disturbing incident. Satisfactory information reached me during these disturbances of an attempted co-operation between the rebels and persons in sympathy with them in Illinois. Signal rockets and beacon lights were displayed on each side of the river between Cairo and Metropolis, evincing a common design. Spies and suspicious persons were found in the neighborhood of Mound City and Cairo seeking access to public property and shipping. A report came in that an officer in Forrest's command was actually organizing an armed band in a neighboring county. A party went out and broke up the band, the rebel officer escaping across the river.

On the night of the 16th, a gun-boat patrolling the river near Metropolis, captured a trading boat on the Illinois shore, having concealed a quantity of new rebel uniforms, and other evidences were found of its being used as a rebel recruiting station for receiving volunteers from Illinois. A gun-boat was fired upon by guerrillas opposite Mound City. It became necessary to order the seizure and destruction of all ferries and craft used in crossing the river. Thus the crossing of armed bands, spies, and contraband goods was checked.

On assuming command I found the railroad operated from Columbus to Union City, 26 miles, at the expense of the Government, and used to carry out supplies which went mostly into disloyal hands or were seized by Forrest. The road from Paducah to Mayfield was operated by its owners. Enormous quantities of supplies were carried to convenient points and passed into the hands of the rebel army. I found this abuse so flagrant that I issued a general order stopping all trade. I furnish a copy marked F. I may safely assume that these supplies were intended for the enemy. Without them that large force could not have remained so long, and probably would not have come at all. The presence of that force brought Western Kentucky again under insurrectionary control, and so it still remains. The disloyal citizens are open and avowed in their determination to kill, plunder, and expel from their homes all loyal men, and freely declare that none but such as sympathize with themselves shall take any part in the approaching elections. I saw that unless protected in their efforts to protect themselves these loyal men of Western Kentucky must give way, and the country remain, not dead to the Union, but alive with active effort to destroy it.

These few loyal Union men have been sorely tried. Their fidelity to their country and flag, like the faith of the early Church, has withstood the fires of relentless persecution. Reverencing a faith shown by such works, and wishing to save to them their right to life and property and home, and their right of suffrage, I caused to be organized, under proper military regulation and restraints, such of them as wished to be enrolled and armed for the purpose of destroying the bands of robbers and guerrillas that infested their neighborhoods. Accordingly a company was formed at Paducah, and another at Columbus, and they are doing good and gallant service. Their committees report that this policy carried out and they sustained, they will drive out the armed marauders, silence their sympathizers, and hold Western Kentucky to its allegiance.

On withdrawing his main force from this neighborhood, the enemy fell upon Fort Pillow, 160 miles below in the Memphis district. The sad termination of that affair has been doubtless fully reported by the proper officers. I had the honor, however, to transmit to Major-General Sherman and to the Secretary of War a mass of testimony on that subject to which, with my communication transmitting the same, dated April 28, I respectfully refer. I was enabled also to furnish Messrs. Wade and Gooch with information on that subject for the use of the committee they represented. All disclose a policy deliberately adopted, a premeditation well considered; the more than savage acts at Fort Pillow being but the natural and intended result.

I wish to state that during my short period of service here, the navy has borne a conspicuous part in all operations. The Peosta, Captain Smith, and Paw Paw, Captain O'Neil, joined Colonel Hicks at Paducah, and with gallantry equal to his own shelled the rebels out of the buildings from which their sharpshooters annoyed our troops. A large number took shelter in heavy warehouses near the river and maintained a furious fire upon the gunboats, inflicting some injury, but they were promptly dislodged and the buildings destroyed. Fleet Captain Pennock, of the Mississippi Squadron, representing Admiral Porter in his absence, and Lieutenant-Commander Shirk, of the Seventh Division, who had charge above Cairo and on the Tennessee, were prompt, vigilant, and courageous, and co-operated in everything. That the river line was kept open, considering the inadequate force at my control, I regard as due in a great degree to the co-operation of the navy.

Cairo, at the confluence of the two great rivers, and the gateway through which all military and naval supplies for operations in this portion of the Union must pass, will doubtless require military defense in future years. I recommend that suitable fortifications be made, none now existing worth the name. The work now standing is incapable of efficient use. The magazine was constructed in 1861, and is so damp as to destroy ammunition in a few days. It is safe to estimate the value of stores thus rendered useless at ten times the cost of a proper place for their storage.

The quantities of quartermaster and commissary stores and army and naval supplies which are handled here are exceeded at but few points in the country, yet no buildings of adequate capacity or with any reference to security from fires and floods have been provided.

Thousands of our brave soldiers are frequently landed here, often at night and during storms; and it must continue to be so, for this must remain the great point of reshipment, yet no proper barracks are provided. Oftentimes during the past two months our regiments have spent the nights in the open air, deep in the mud, and assailed by storms. The Soldiers' Home, under the benevolent care of the Sanitary Commission, provides temporary food and shelter, but is inadequate to the demand. A Soldiers' Rest belonging to the Government, under military control, and provided for by uniform appropriations, is needed. Then, soldiers arriving and needing temporary accommodations while awaiting transportation, could be taken under military surveillance and at once made at home. Now, particularly when arriving without officers, they are left in the street, to become the prey of sharpers and victims of the many temptations which beset them.

I earnestly recommend these several matters to the attention of the Government, fully persuaded that the safety of its property, the efficient and safe transaction of its vast and increasing business at this point, and the comfort and character of its soldiers and sailors require liberal appropriations to that end.

Having already made reference to the conduct of Col. S. G. Hicks, commanding at Paducah, I will add that Col. W. H. Lawrence, Thirty-fourth New Jersey, commanding at Columbus, as well as Captains Cogswell and Ekings, commanding detachments from the same regiment at Hickman and Island 10, evinced exemplary fidelity and courage. Col. John I. Rinaker, One hundred and twenty-second Illinois, now commanding the post of Cairo, is a gallant and meritorious officer, vigilant in the performance of duty, and wise and just in administration. Capt. J. H. Odlin, assistant adjutant-general, and First Lieut. Charles B. Smith, aide-de-camp, have on all occasions been brave, vigilant, and faithful in duty, and I commend the various officers of the staff for the honorable manner in which their various and often most responsible duties have been met.

In pursuance of Special Orders, No. 34, headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi (Major-General Sherman), and letter of instructions from Major-General McPherson, commanding Department and Army of the Tennessee, dated April 20, 1864, Brig. Gen. H. Prince proceeded to Columbus, Ky., and on the 28th of April assumed command of that district. The district was in the letter of instructions defined by metes and bounds, lying wholly on the east side of the rivers, not including nor referring to the post of Cairo.

I was assigned to the command of the District of Cairo, which included the post of Columbus, by Special Orders, No. 61, headquarters Sixteenth Army Corps (Major-General Hurlbut), and entered upon duty March 19, 1864. No order has come to my knowledge relieving me of that duty, nor any order making Cairo any part of the district to which General Prince was assigned. That the record may be intelligible, I refer to the accompanying papers marked G for explanation.

I am, therefore, after this day without the command to which I was assigned, though not relieved by any order. It did not comport with my self-respect nor my sense of what was due the service to accept a controversy with a senior officer in a matter probably resulting from inadvertence.

Having communicated these facts to Major-General Washburn, my superior officer, and the Adjutant-General of the Army, and awaiting instructions,

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers.*

[Inclosure F.*]

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 15. HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO, *Cairo, Ill., April 2*, 1864.

The large quantities of supplies which through permits (too freely granted), as well as by evasion of established regulations, have been carried into the interior of Western Kentucky, now partially under insurrectionary control, are now in the hands of the rebel forces affording them aid and comfort. Such supplies furnish an induce-

*For inclosures A to E, see reports of Gray, Helmer, Hicks, and Lawrence.

ment to hostile incursions and support the marauders while making them, and it may be presumed that they were shipped and transported to the interior for that very purpose. To prevent the continuance of this abuse, and for the purpose of stopping the enemy's supplies, it is, in accordance with instructions from corps headquarters, ordered:

I. All permits for the landing of goods, supplies, or articles of sale of any description between Paducah (including that point) and Memphis are suspended, and no such goods will be landed until further orders; peremptory seizure and arrest being the penalty for violation.

II. Steamers will not make landings, nor receive or discharge passengers or freight on the Kentucky shore between Paducah and Cairo, nor on either shore between Cairo and Memphis, except at Columbus, Island 10, and Fort Pillow, except under armed convoy and under orders of a competent military or naval officer.

III. Ferry-boats, trading boats, skiffs, and other irregular craft are being used for conveyance of spies, traitors, and contraband supples for the enemy's use. No further crossing of the river by such boats, ferries, or other craft between Paducah and Memphis will be allowed. The military and naval officers will promptly arrest all persons offending, with their effects, and, in their discretion, hold or destroy all such boats, &c.

IV. The commanding officers at Paducah and Columbus will retain under their control all engines and cars, and permit no running of trains except for military purposes and under their orders.

V. Officers of the Treasury Department are respectfully advised of the existence of this order, and enjoined to cause its due observance.

By order of Brig. Gen. M. Brayman:

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure G.]

HDQRS. DEPT. AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Huntsville, Ala., April* 19, 1864.

Brigadier-General BRAYMAN,
*Commanding District of Cairo:*

GENERAL: Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant has ordered three regiments from Saint Louis with which to re-enforce Paducah, Cairo, and Columbus, and to feel out toward Union City. Union City is not to be occupied as a post, but visited frequently by scouting parties and patrols.

Paducah and Columbus are to be held at all hazards, and all other points south of the Ohio in your jurisdiction which are weak and exposed must be evacuated.

Colonel Hicks remains in command at Paducah, and Brigadier-General Prince is ordered to take command of Columbus, Ky.

All troops along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers must strike at the enemy wherever he is in reach, and strike hard.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. B. McPHERSON.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
No. 34. } *Nashville, Tenn., April* 24, 1864.

I. Brig. Gen. Henry Prince, U. S. Volunteers, will proceed to Columbus, Ky., and assume command of that district, reporting by

letter and telegraph to Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, commanding Department of the Tennessee, Huntsville, Ala., and Maj. Gen. C. C. Washburn, commanding, &c., at Memphis, Tenn., for detailed instructions.

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By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HDQRS. DEPT. AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Huntsville, Ala., April 20, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. HENRY PRINCE:
(Care of Commanding Officer, Cairo, Ill.)

GENERAL: In accordance with instructions from Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant, you are hereby assigned to the command of the Defenses and District of Columbus, Ky.

This district will include Paducah, and will embrace all that portion of Kentucky and Tennessee west of the Tennessee River, and north of a line running from the Big Sandy, west through Paris to the Obion River, and thence along to the Mississippi River. You must not understand, however, that you are expressly limited to this section in your operations. If the enemy makes his appearance and you can strike him to advantage, do so, without regard to district lines, and follow him as long as you can do so advantageously. All the forces along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in this department must strike the enemy whenever and wherever they can. At present the forces within your jurisdiction are in a sort of transition state, a portion of them being for a special purpose. As soon as it can be done with safety, I want all the detachments and the battery belonging to the Seventeenth Army Corps sent to Cairo to join their respective divisions, which are ordered to rendezvous at that place. Three regiments of infantry have been ordered from Saint Louis with which to re-enforce Paducah, Cairo, and Columbus, Ky., and to feel out toward Union City. Union City, however, is not to be held permanently, but visited frequently by patrols and scouting parties. Paducah, Cairo, Columbus, Memphis, Vicksburg, and Natchez are to be held at all hazards. All points which are weak and exposed must be evacuated. The system of small isolated posts is a bad one. They add very little to the safety of navigation on the river or the security of the country, and are liable to be surprised and captured. A few strong posts, with good defensive works, and a thorough system of scouts and patrols, with gun-boats running up and down the river, will accomplish our object much better. As soon as the veteran regiments belonging to the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps, now on furlough, return, your force will be regularly assigned and thoroughly organized. You will make your regular reports and returns to the headquarters of the commanding officer District of Memphis, Memphis, Tenn.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. B. McPHERSON.

GENERAL ORDERS.] COLUMBUS, KY.,
*April 28, 1864.*

Pursuant to Special Orders, No. 34, dated headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi, Nashville, Tenn., April 24, 1864, the undersigned assumes command of this district.

The chief officers of the staff departments belonging to the headquarters of the district (at present located in Cairo) will forthwith report in person to the undersigned at this place. The assistant adjutant-general will transfer his office, including all the records of the district, to this place to-morrow.

The necessary transportation to execute these orders will be furnished by the quartermaster.

HENRY PRINCE,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., May* 1, 1864.

Maj. Gen. S. A. HURLBUT,
*Commanding Sixteenth Army Corps:*

SIR: Your Special Orders, No. 61, assigned me to the command of the District of Cairo.

General Sherman's Special Orders, No. 34 (April 24, 1864), directs Brig. Gen. H. Prince "to proceed to Columbus and assume command of that district."

General McPherson's letter of instructions to General Prince, April 20, assigns General Prince "to the command of the Defenses and District of Columbus, Ky.", and describes this district by metes and bounds—being on the east side of the rivers—excluding, or rather not referring to, the post of Cairo.

General Prince, by his order, April 28, issued from Columbus, assumes "command of this district."

In the same order he directs my staff officers, located at Cairo, to report to him at Columbus, also my adjutant to transfer his office, records, &c., to Columbus.

General Sherman's orders seem to include Cairo; General McPherson's letter otherwise.

General Prince, as shown by his order, understands his command to include Cairo.

I have not been relieved by any order from the command I assumed under yours.

Personally, I make no question, being prepared to obey lawful orders and perform any duty, but there is confusion and doubt for which I am not accountable. I therefore solicit your order—being a district commander without a district, unless it be Cairo, which is a post, having a commander, &c.

Yours, &c.,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., May* 2, 1864.

Brig. Gen. H. PRINCE,
*Commanding District of Columbus:*

SIR: Since our conversation yesterday evening, Major-General Hurlbut has directed me to continue on duty as before, as to Cairo, omitting all that pertains to the other side of the river. Accordingly I resumed business this morning, and my staff officers report to me for duty as before; my headquarters also remaining as before.

I have directed to be prepared for your use such original records, or copies thereof, as may be most agreeable and useful to you. I agree

with you that Cairo should be a part of your district, and doubt not it will soon be so. At present I am governed by instructions of a superior officer, and when placed in such official relation as to make it proper, shall with entire readiness and pleasure be governed by yours.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., May 2,* 1864.

Brig. Gen. H. PRINCE,
*Commanding District of Columbus:*

SIR: Under verbal instructions from Major-General Hurlbut, I this morning resumed the transaction of official business and so advised you by note.

Since that time General Hurlbut has been relieved from command. I recognize the necessity of Cairo being a part of the district placed under your command, though the instructions of General McPherson led General H. to a different conclusion, aided by the fact that I am not relieved in the usual manner.

I therefore return to our understanding of yesterday morning. While waiting to be informed officially whether it was intended to relieve me from command, I think it proper to report to you for duty as you may prescribe, leaving the apparent conflict of jurisdiction in which the business of the past few days has been involved, to be explained where it originated.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier General of Volunteers.*

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HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., April 28,* 1864.

SIR: Having been so instructed by Major-General Sherman, commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi, I have the honor to transmit such testimony as I have been able to procure relative to the late tragedy at Fort Pillow.

In some cases the reports of commissioned officers have been received without oath, but nearly all the statements are sworn to in the usual manner.

Many persons who could have testified fully are not now accessible, having separated.

Recognizing the exigency of the case, I prefer to transmit such as could be obtained in the shortest time. With your approbation I will add such as can be hereafter procured.

You will, however, find sufficient in these papers to enforce absolute conviction upon all minds that violations of the laws and usages of civilized war, and of those obligations of common humanity which even barbarous and heathen tribes in some sort observe, have been perpetrated.

Men and women who passed through the excitements of the battle, as well as the horrors of an indiscriminate massacre, which raged not only when the blood was hot and the judgment clouded by conflict, but which reached into the quiet of the following day, most of

them mutilated, hacked, and torn, and some while dying, have patiently, calmly, and even with a forgiving spirit, told their pitiful story. The solemnities of an oath under such circumstances would seem to be scarcely required.

It may be added that these murders came not of sudden heat, consequent upon battle and perpetrated by soldiers whom their officers could not control. The purpose to do this very thing was avowed beforehand by rebel officers in command. At Paducah threats of indiscriminate murder were made; at Columbus the slaughter of all colored soldiers was threatened. These threats were made in official papers signed by the generals in command, and which are in our possession. Verbal threats of the same character will in due time be proven. By the casualty of war the fate intended for Paducah and Columbus fell only upon Fort Pillow.

A full and formal report of military operations within this district since I had the honor to be assigned to its command will be forwarded at the [end] of this month, to which reference is made for closer details.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

[Inclosure No. 5*]

Testimony of Ransom Anderson (colored), private in Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery:

I do hereby certify that I am a member of Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, and that I was in the battle of Fort Pillow on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and that I was severely wounded during the progress of the engagement. When the surrender occurred I was taken prisoner. I also certify that while a prisoner and wounded I was further wounded by being cut in the head and hands by one Lieutenant Williams, C. S. Army. I also certify that I saw John Pritchard, of Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, shot while a prisoner and while lying by my side upon the ground. I also certify that I saw Coolie Pride, of the same regiment and the same company, stabbed by a rebel soldier with a bayonet and the bayonet broken off in his body, after the said Coolie Pride had been taken prisoner by the Confederates. On the morning of the 13th day of April, A. D. 1864, after he had been taken prisoner, I saw Daniel Lester shot dead by a rebel soldier.

Mound City, April 23, 1864.

RANSOM (his x mark) ANDERSON.

Witness:
JOHN H. BAKER,
*Captain Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery.*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23d day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Provost-Marshal.*

* For inclosures Nos. 1–4, see reports of William Cleary, W. Ferguson, F. A. Smith, D. Van Horn, and John G. Woodruff, pp. 563, 571, 563, 569, and 558, respectively.

[Inclosure No. 6.]

CAIRO, ILL.,
*April* 23, 1864.

Elois Bevel, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a citizen of Osceola, Ark. I was driven from my home by guerrillas. I arrived at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the night of the 11th of April, 1864. I was at Fort Pillow during the engagement between the rebel forces under Forrest and Chalmers and the United States garrison at that place on the 12th of April instant, 1864. About sunup the alarm of rebels being in the fort was received at Major Booth's headquarters. I took a position where I could see all that was done by the rebel and United States forces. Deponent further saith: I saw the contraband camps in flames at different points; could see the skirmishers of the rebels. Signals were given by Captain Bradford to Captain Marshall, of the Navy, commanding gun-boat No. 7, to shell them from post No. 1, which was in sight of the fort, which was done by Captain Marshall. About one hour after sunrise brisk skirmishing began. The bullets from rebel infantry caused me to move from where I was and take position behind a large stump near the fort where I could better see the rebels who swarmed the bluff. The rebels were here so near the gun-boat that the crew under Captain Marshall had to close their ports and use their small-arms. At 1 p. m. the firing on both sides ceased; a flag of truce was sent from the rebel lines to demand an unconditional surrender. While the flag of truce was approaching the fort I saw a battery of artillery moved to a better position by the rebels, and saw their sharpshooters approaching the fort from another quarter. At 2 o'clock the fight began again; about fifteen or twenty minutes after I saw a charge made by about 2,000 on the breast-works, and near it on the bluff. Sharp fighting took place inside the fort of about five minutes' duration. I saw their bayonets and swords. I saw the Union soldiers, black and white, slaughtered while asking for quarter; heard their screams for quarter, to which the rebels paid no attention. About 100 left the fort and ran down the bank of the bluff to the river, pursued by the rebels, who surrounded them. In about twenty minutes every one of them, as far as I could see, was shot down by the rebels without mercy. I left at this time, getting on the gun-boat. On Thursday, the 14th of April, I met Captain Farris, of Forrest's command, about 6 miles from Fort Pillow, at Plum Point; his soldiers said they were hunting for negroes. I asked him if they took any prisoners at Fort Pillow. He said they took some of the Thirteenth Tennessee, who surrendered, but no others.

ELOIS BEVEL.

Signed and sworn to before me this 23d day of April, A. D. 1864, at Cairo, Ill.

C. B. SMITH,
*Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure No. 7.]

James R. Bingham, a resident of Fredonia, Chautauqua County, N. Y., deposes and says:

He was, and has been, a clerk in a store at Fort Pillow over a year previous to the 12th April instant. On learning early in the morning of the 12th instant that the post was to be attacked by the Con-

federates he went immediately to the fort, and was engaged with a musket in defending the fort when General Chalmers was repulsed twice. After this I was detailed to carry wounded down the hill, on which the fort was situated, to the river bank, where, beside a large log, I raised a red flag as a sign of a hospital—the flag was made from part of a red flannel shirt. The last attack was made by General Forrest in person, who headed the column. Forrest was wounded in three places, and his horse shot under him.

Major Booth, of the regular army, was in command. He was killed about 11 o'clock by a sharpshooter, when Major Bradford, of the Thirteenth Tennessee Regiment, took command. Major Bradford was taken prisoner and killed, near Judge Green's, some 6 miles from the fort, while a prisoner.

When the Confederates rushed into the fort—having taken advantage of a flag of truce to get their men close to the fort in a ravine, and directly under the embankments—this force numbered some 1,500 with a large reserve in sight. As soon as the Confederates got into the fort the Federals threw down their arms in token of surrender, and many exclaimed, "We surrender." Immediately an indiscriminate massacre commenced on both black and white soldiers. Up to the time of the surrender I don't think more than from 20 to 25 had been killed, and not more than 15 wounded.

I was taken prisoner and when marching with other prisoners, black and white, I saw the Confederates shoot and kill and wound both white and black Federal prisoners. Some negroes were severely beaten, but still able to go along. We were taken a few miles into the country, when myself and a few others got relieved by General McCulloch, on the ground of being private citizens.

I saw General Forrest, and knew he was wounded, as before stated. There were from 25 to 30 black soldiers carried off as prisoners, and not over 30 to 35 whites; all the rest of that faithful and heroic garrison, some 500 or 600 in number, were killed and wounded in action, or murdered or wounded after the surrender. I saw officers as well as privates kill and wound prisoners, and heard them say, while held a prisoner with them in the country, that they intended taking the prisoners still farther into the country and making an example of them.

Captain Bradford, of the Thirteenth Tennessee, was engaged with a blue signal flag, in connection with gun-boat No. 7. Captain Bradford was ordered shot by General Forrest, who said, "Shoot that man with the black flag." This was after the surrender. His body was literally shot to pieces. All, both black and white, fought manfully. I saw several negroes wounded, with blood running from their bodies, still engaged loading and firing cannon and muskets cheerfully. There was no giving way till 1,500 Confederates rushed inside the fort; most were killed outside the fort when prisoners. The fort was defended successfully for eight hours by from 500 to 600 men against 3,500 to 4,000 barbarians. I heard Confederate officers say it was the hardest contested engagement that Forrest had ever been engaged in. I heard officers say they would never recognize negroes as prisoners of war, but would kill them whenever taken; even if they caught a negro with blue clothes on (uniform) they would kill him. Officers of negro troops were treated and murdered the same as the negroes themselves. After lying in the woods two days and nights, I was picked up by gun-boat No. 7, some 5 or 6 miles below the fort. On my return to the fort I saw and recog-

nized the remains of Lieutenant Ackerstrom. He had been nailed to a house, and supposed burned alive. There were the remains of 2 negroes lying where the house burned. I was told they were nailed to the floor. I also found a negro partially buried with his head out of the ground alive. I went for assistance and water for him. When I returned he was so near dead that no assistance could save him. We sat by him till he died.

I cannot recount but a small part of the barbarities I saw on that fatal day, when hundreds of loyal soldiers were murdered in cold blood.

JAS. R. BINGHAM.

Sworn before me at Cairo, Ill., this 18th day of April, 1864.

JNO. H. MUNROE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure No. 8.]

Testimony of Hardin Cason, Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery:

I do hereby certify that I was in the engagement at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and that I was wounded during the battle and then taken prisoner. I also certify that on the following morning (being on the morning of the 13th of April, A. D. 1864) I saw Corpl. Robert Winston murdered by a rebel soldier, Corporal Winston having been previously wounded during the progress of the battle on the 12th. I also certify that I saw several other men shot who had been taken prisoners, their names not being known to me.

Mound City, April 23, 1864.

HARDIN (his x mark) CASON.

Witness:

JOHN H. BAKER,
*Capt. Co. B., Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored)..*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23d day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Provost-Marshal, Mound City.*

[Inclosure No. 9.]

Testimony of Corpl. Eli Cothel, Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery:

I do hereby certify that I was wounded during the engagement at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864. I was shot through the arm while thus a prisoner to the rebel forces. I saw 17 men thus shot, not knowing their names, after first being taken prisoners.

Mound City, Ill., April 23, 1864.

ELI (his x mark) COTHEL.

Witness:

JOHN H. BAKER,
*Capt. Co. B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23d day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 10.]

Statement of Corpl. William A. Dickey, Company B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry:

I do hereby certify that I was at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, when that place was attacked by the rebel General Forrest. I went into the fort at the commencement of the action. We kept up a continual fire upon both sides until about 1 p. m., when a flag of truce was sent in by the rebels, and while it was being considered the firing was ordered to cease. I also certify that while this was going on I plainly saw the enemy consolidating their forces and gaining positions they had been endeavoring to gain without success. At the same time their men were plundering our deserted camp, and stealing goods from the quartermaster's depot, and from the stores of the merchants of the post. They also at the same time put their sharpshooters into our deserted barracks, whence they had fair view and were in fair range of our little garrison. The firing recommenced after the flag of truce had retired. About one hour thereafter the rebels stormed our works. They had no sooner obtained the top of our walls when the negroes ran, and the whites, obtaining no quarter, ran after them. The rebels followed closely, shooting down all who came in the way, white and black. I also certify that I was myself shot by a rebel soldier after I had surrendered, and while I had my hands up begging for mercy. I also certify that I saw the rebels shoot down 10 men, white soldiers, within 10 paces of me while they had their hands up supplicating quarter. I also certify that I saw 12 negro soldiers killed long after they had surrendered. I also certify that I saw the rebels throw several negroes into the river while they were begging for life. One rebel came to me and took my percussion caps, saying he had been killing negroes so fast that his own had been exhausted; he added that he was going to shoot some more. I also certify that I saw negroes thrown into the river by rebels, and shot afterward, while struggling for life.

Mound City, April 23, A. D. 1864.

WM. A. (his x mark) DICKEY.

Witness:

WILLIAM CLEARY,
*Second Lieut. Co. B, Thirteenth Tenn. Vol. Cavalry.*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 25th day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 11.]

Testimony of Elias Falls, Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery:

I do hereby certify that I was in the battle of Fort Pillow on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and that I was taken prisoner by the rebels and wounded while I was a prisoner. I was ordered with several others to march up the hill, and we were fired upon while thus marching. I was the second man shot while in the hands of the rebel officers, and obeying their commands while marching up the hill.

Several others, to my certain knowledge, were shot by the rebels on this occasion.

Mound City, Ill., April 23, 1864.

ELIAS (his x mark) FALLS.

Witness:

JOHN H. BAKER,
*Captain Co. B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23d day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 12.]

Statement of Jason Souden, Company B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry:

I do hereby certify that I was at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th of the present month, when it was attacked by the rebels under General N. B. Forrest. I was ordered into the fort at the commencement of the engagement. We kept up a continual fire on both sides until about 1 p. m., when a flag of truce was sent in and firing ceased. While the flag of truce was being considered, I saw the enemy plundering our evacuated quarters and moving their forces up in bodies, getting them in position. We had been driving them all the morning. They were at the same time placing their sharpshooters in the buildings we had occupied as barracks. The object of the flag of truce not having been agreed to, the firing again commenced. About one hour afterward the enemy charged on our works in overwhelming numbers, and the negro soldiers being panic-stricken dropped their arms and ran down the bluff. The whites also, when they found there was to be no quarter shown, also ran down the bluff. The rebels ran after us shooting all they came to, both black and white. I also certify that I was myself shot after I had surrendered, and while I had my hands up and was imploring them to show me mercy. They also shot Sergeant Gwaltney, of my company, while he was within 10 feet of me, after he had given up his revolver, and while he had his hands up crying out for mercy. They took his own revolver and shot him through with its contents twice through the head, killing him instantly. I also certify that I saw the rebels shoot in all 6 men who had surrendered, and who had their hands up asking quarter. I further certify that I saw the rebels come about on the ensuing morning, the 13th day of April, A. D. 1864, and dispatch several of the colored soldiers of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, who had survived their wounds received on the previous day.

Mound City, Ill., April 23, 1864.

JASON (his x mark) SOUDEN.

Witness:

WILLIAM CLEARY,
*Second Lieut. Co. B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry.*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 25th day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 13.]

Statement of William J. Mays, Company B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry:

MOUND CITY, *April* 18, 1864.

I was at Fort Pillow on the 12th of April, 1864, and engaged in the fight there. The pickets were driven in about 6 a. m., when skirmishers were thrown out to ascertain the position and number of the enemy. The contraband camp was then discovered to be on fire, and the firing of small-arms was heard in the same direction. The skirmishing lasted about one hour, when our skirmishers were gradually drawn back toward the fort on the bluff. They then attacked the fort. Two assaults were made by them, and both repulsed. This was about 11 or 12 a. m., when a flag of truce was sent in demanding a surrender. While the flag was being received and the firing suspended the enemy were moving their forces into position, and occupied one position which they had been fighting to obtain all day but had not been able to gain except under the protection of a flag of truce. It was from this position they made their heaviest assault, it being impossible to bring our artillery to bear upon them.

Question. Do you think they could have taken the fort or that particular position had they not done so under cover of the flag of truce?

Answer. I do not; they had been kept from it for six hours.

Question. What further took place? Go on with your statement.

In about five minutes after the disappearance of the flag of truce a general assault was made upon our works from every direction. They were kept at bay for some time, when the negroes gave way upon the left and ran down the bluff, leaving an opening through which the rebels entered and immediately commenced an indiscriminate slaughter of both white and black. We all threw down our arms and gave tokens of surrender, asking for quarter (I was wounded in the right shoulder and muscle of the back and knocked down before I threw down my gun). But no quarter was given. Voices were heard upon all sides, crying, "Give them no quarter; kill them; kill them; it is General Forrest's orders." I saw 4 white men and at least 25 negroes shot while begging for mercy, and I saw 1 negro dragged from a hollow log within 10 feet of where I lay, and as 1 rebel held him by the foot another shot him. These were all soldiers. There were also 2 negro women and 3 little children standing within 25 steps from me, when a rebel stepped up to them and said, "Yes, God damn you, you thought you were free, did you?" and shot them all. They all fell but 1 child, when he knocked it in the head with the breech of his gun. They then disappeared in the direction of the landing, following up the fugitives, firing at them wherever seen. They came back in about three-quarters of an hour, shooting and robbing the dead of their money and clothes. I saw a man with a canteen upon him and a pistol in his hand. I ventured to ask him for a drink of water. He turned around, saying, "Yes, God damn you, I will give you a drink of water," and shot at my head three different times, covering my face up with dust, and then turned from me—no doubt thinking he had killed me—remarking, "God damn you, it's too late to pray now;" then went on with his pilfering. I lay there until dark, feigning death, when a rebel officer came along, drawing his saber, and ordered me to get up, threatening to run his saber into me if I did not, saying I had to march 10 miles that night. I succeeded in getting up and got among

a small squad he had already gathered up, but stole away from them during the night and got among the dead, feigning death for fear of being murdered.

The next morning the gun-boat came up and commenced shelling them out, when I crawled out from among the dead and with a piece of paper motioning to the boat; she came up, and I crawled on board.

WM. J. (his x mark) MAYS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 27th day of April, 1864.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 14.]

Testimony of Emanuel Nichols, Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery:

I do hereby certify that I was in the battle fought at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and that I was wounded during the engagement. I also certify that after being wounded I was taken prisoner, and on the following morning, 13th of April, A. D. 1864, I was shot by a rebel soldier and left for dead upon the battle-field.

Mound City, Ill., April 23, A. D. 1864.

EMANUEL (his x mark) NICHOLS.

Witness:

JOHN H. BAKER,
*Captain Co. B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23d day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Provost-Marshal, Mound City, Ill.*

[Inclosure No. 15.]

MOUND CITY, *April* 25, 1864.

Statement of Daniel H. Rankin, Company C, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry Volunteers:

I was in Fort Pillow on Tuesday, the 12th of April, 1864, and was engaged in the fight there on that day. They drove in our pickets about 6 a. m. They came in as skirmishers and sharpshooters. This kind of fighting lasted some two hours, when we were driven into the fort, the rebels taking possession of our rifle-pits. The firing from both sides continued up to about 12 o'clock, they endeavoring to gain a position from which to storm our works, but were unable. They made two different assaults, but were repulsed each time. They then sent in a flag of truce demanding a surrender of the works, which demand was refused. While the flag was in waiting and the firing suspended the rebels were moving for position, and actually occupied the one which they had endeavored to occupy all the forenoon, but in vain, and the one from which the heaviest assault was made upon our works. In about five minutes after the leaving of the flag, and before our officers had scarcely time to get inside the fort, an order for a general assault was given, when they rushed upon us in overwhelming numbers. We held them at bay for some time, when two companies of negro troops broke and ran down the bluff, which made an opening for the rebels to come in at, when they got possession of our works and indiscriminate slaughter commenced of both white and black. When I saw we were over-

powered I threw down my gun and took off my cartridge-box and asked for quarter. I heard an officer of some description order his men to kill us and show no quarter. I was standing at this time just under the bluff, and the rebels upon the top firing at us. I held up my hands and told them I had surrendered, but they still kept firing. I was hit seven times after I had thrown down my arms in token of surrender, though some of the wounds were light. I was then taken prisoner. I was taken some 2 miles from the fort with the other prisoners, I think some 100 whites and 18 or 20 negroes. The next morning after the fight myself and some 10 or 12 other wounded were paroled and started into the fort. I started in in company with two rebel surgeons, the others having gone before. As we started we heard a firing, when one of the surgeons remarked that is some of our boys shooting down those wounded. I don't know whether it was done or not. There were some 50 negroes shot while in the water. I was shot at while standing in the water behind a log.

DANIEL H. (his x mark) RANKIN.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 25th day of April, 1864.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 16.]

Statement of John F. Ray, Company B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry:

I do hereby [certify] that I was at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th of the present month, when it was attacked by the rebels under General Forrest. I was in the fort from the first. A continued fire was kept up until about 1 p. m., when the flag of truce came in from the Confederates. I saw the rebels massing and disposing their forces while the flag was under consideration. I also certify that at this time I saw some of the rebels come up even to the ditch beyond which our cannon were placed. I asked some of them why they came so close while the flag of truce was being canvassed. They only replied that they knew their business there. We threatened to fire if they came any nearer, when they jumped into the ditches outside of our fort. Firing was then resumed and lasted about one hour, when the rebels stormed our works. The negroes ran. The white men also ran, both having thrown down their arms, but both were followed up closely by armed rebels, who shot down all indiscriminately. I was shot after I had surrendered, and while going down the bluff I saw 12 white soldiers and perhaps 30 negroes shot down after surrender and while begging for mercy. I also certify that in one instance I saw a small negro boy riding on a horse sitting behind a rebel lieutenant, when the lieutenant was ordered by a superior officer (I am not positive that it was General Chalmers) to take that "God-damned nigger down and shoot him, or he would be shot himself." The order was obeyed, and the boy was killed.

Mound City, Ill., April 23, 1864.

JOHN F. (his x mark) RAY.

Witnesss:

WILLIAM CLEARY,
*Second Lieut. Co. B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry.*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23d day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 17.]

Affidavit of Hardy N. Revelle:

I was in business at Fort Pillow previous to the fight on Tuesday last; was engaged as a dry-goods clerk for Messrs. Harris & Co. Went into the fight at 6 o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, the 12th of April. Remained outside of the Federal fortifications until about 8.30 a. m., acting as a sharpshooter. At this time we were all ordered within the fort. Lieutenant Barr was killed outside the fort; also Lieutenant Wilson, latter of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry. It was not long after 9 o'clock that I took my position behind the fortifications and resumed the fight. I was standing not more than 10 paces from Major Booth when he fell, struck in the heart by a musket-bullet. It was but a few minutes past 9. He did not die immediately, but was borne from the field. At this time there was continued firing on both sides. Rebels were not using artillery; our troops were. The next thing I recollect is a flag of truce coming in, the bearer of which, General Forrest, of the rebel army, and some parties of his staff, demanded a surrender of the garrison. Major Bradford was then in command. Forrest did not come within the breast-works, but remained some 50 yards outside, and Major Bradford went out to meet him. They conferred in a southeasterly direction from what was known as old headquarters. Bradford is said to have replied that he would not surrender. Forrest told him if he did not there would not be any quarter shown. They were in conference about fifteen minutes, during which time there was a cessation of firing. Bradford asked for one hour's time in which to confer with the commander of the gun-boat. Forrest refused it, but I think there was a cessation of hostilities of nearly that length of time. The rebels were busily engaged in plundering our hastily deserted encampment outside the fortifications, as well as robbing some of the stores below the hill. They were also massing their troops and placing them in eligible positions while the flag of truce was being considered. It is my opinion that they could never have gained the positions had they not done so under that flag of truce. They had already consumed seven or eight hours in attempting it, with no success.

At about 2.30 in the afternoon a large force of infantry came upon us from the ravine toward the east of where I stood. It seemed to come down Coal Creek. They charged upon our ranks. Another large force of rebel cavalry charged from the south of east, and another force from the northward. They mounted the breast-works at the first charge where I stood. We fired upon them while upon the breast-works. I remember firing two shots while the enemy were upon the walls. The negro troops, frightened by the appearance of such numbers, and knowing they could no longer resist, made a break and ran down the hill, surrendering their arms as the rebels came down our side of the fortifications.

When we found there was no quarter to be shown, and that (white and black) we were to be butchered, we also gave up our arms and passed down the hill. It is stated that at this time Major Bradford put a white handkerchief on his sword-point and waved it in token of submission, but it was not heeded if he did. We were followed closely and fiercely by the advancing rebel forces, their fire never ceasing at all. Our men had given signals themselves that they surrendered, many of them throwing up their hands to show they were unarmed, and submitted to overwhelming odds,

I was about half-way down the hill, partially secreted in a kind of ravine with Dr. Fitch, when I saw 2 men (white men) belonging to the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry standing behind a stump on which they had fixed a white handkerchief, their hands thrown up. They asked for quarter. When they stood on their feet they were exposed, and I saw them shot down by rebel soldiers and killed.

A captain of the rebel troops then came where we were and ordered all the Federals (white and black) to move up the hill or he would "shoot their God-damned brains out." I started up the hill with a number of others, in accordance with the order. I was surrendered with our men. While going up I saw white men fall on both sides of me, who were shot down by rebel soldiers who were stationed upon the brow of the hill. We were at the time marching directly toward the men who fired upon us. I do not know how many fell, but I remember of seeing 4 killed in this way. I also saw negroes shot down with pistols in the hands of rebels. One was killed at my side. I saw another negro struck on the head with a saber by a rebel soldier. I suppose he was also killed. One more just in front of me was knocked down with the butt of a musket. We kept on up the hill. I expected each moment to meet my fate with the rest.

At the top of the hill I met a man named Cutler, a citizen of Fort Pillow. He spoke to a rebel captain about me, and we then went under orders from the captain to one of the stores under the hill, where the captain got a pair of boots. This was about 4 p. m. on Tuesday.

The captain and Cutler and myself then left to find General McCulloch's headquarters, where we were to report and be disposed of. The captain introduced me to a lieutenant and to a surgeon of the rebel army. The surgeon made me show him where goods could be found. The lieutenant got a saddle and bridle and some bits, and then we helped them to carry them to where their horses were, outside of the fortifications. I also met Mr. Wedlin, a citizen, and he accompanied us. He helped the lieutenant to mount and pack his goods, and then he gave Wedlin and myself permission to depart, and instructed us as to the best means of escape.

I am positive that up to the time of the surrender there had not been more than 50 men (black and white) killed and wounded on the Union side. Of these but about 20 had been among the killed. The balance of all killed and wounded on our side were killed and wounded after we had given undoubted evidence of a surrender, and contrary to all rules of warfare.

H. N. REVELLE.

Sworn to before me at Cairo, Ill., this 17th day of April, 1864.

JNO. H. MUNROE,
*Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure No. 18.]

Testimony of Sergt. Benjamin Robinson, Company D, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery:

I do hereby certify that I was in the battle at Fort Pillow on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and that I was taken prisoner and while thus a prisoner was shot and wounded by a rebel soldier.

I also certify that I saw Sandy Sherman, of Company D, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, murdered in cold blood while a prisoner in

the hands of the rebels. I also saw George Wilborn shot down and killed after being taken prisoner.

Mound City, April 23, 1864.

BENJ. (his x mark) ROBINSON,
*Sergeant Company D, U. S. Heavy Artillery.*

Witness:

JOHN H. BAKER,
*Captain Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23d day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 19.]

Statement of Mrs. Ann Jane Rufins:

I am the wife of Thomas Rufins, a member of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry. Was at Fort Pillow on Tuesday, the 12th of April, A. D. 1864, and was removed to an island during the progress of the battle. Returned to Fort Pillow on Wednesday morning, the 13th of April, and saw the remains of a man lying upon the back, its arms outstretched, with some planks under it. The man had to all appearances been nailed to the side of the house, and then the building set on fire. I am satisfied that the body was that of Lieut. John C. Ackerstrom, second lieutenant Company A, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, who was on duty as quartermaster of the post of Fort Pillow. I was well acquainted with Lieutenant Ackerstrom when living. After examining the body I walked around to a ditch where a large number of dead and wounded had been thrown and partially covered. I saw several places where the wounded had dug holes and attempted to get out, but had been unable to do so.

Cairo, April 18, 1864.

ANN JANE (her x mark) RUFINS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of April, 1864.

ISAAC M. TALMADGE,
*Captain and District Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 20.]

Statement of Daniel Stamps, Company E, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry:

I do hereby certify that I was at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of the present month, when it was attacked by the rebels under Forrest. I was ordered out as a sharpshooter, skirmished with the enemy about one hour, when I was called within the fort. We fired very deliberately while we were outside of the fort, and I saw a great many fall dead from the effects of our guns. I staid within the fort perhaps about one hour, when I was again taken as a sharpshooter to go down under the bluff to repulse the enemy, reported as coming down Coal Creek. We attained a good position where we could see the enemy very plainly, being ourselves secreted behind some logs. I kept up a steady fire all the time I was in this place, until the flag of truce came up, about 1 p. m., killing one of the enemy at nearly every shot. We were next ordered to cease firing. At that very moment the force of the enemy, which had been kept back by our sharpshooting, made an advance. I looked up and saw large bodies of infantry moving down Coal Creek re-enforcing those previously

before us, and whose advance we had prevented. When the rebels had got a good position, where they could pick our men off as they came out of the fort, I saw them break ranks and get water out of the river and make every preparation for a fight, after which they resumed their line of battle. This they did while the flag of truce was being considered and all firing had ceased. The demand of the flag of truce having been refused, the firing was resumed, and I discharged my piece several times, bringing one rebel down at every shot; thus for about three-quarters of an hour keeping them from an advance. Afterward, when the negroes had given way on the left, I saw them run out of the fort down the bluff close to my vicinity. Then I saw the white soldiers coming down after them, saying the rebels were showing no quarter. I then threw down my gun and ran down with them, closely pursued by the enemy shooting down every man black and white. They said they had orders from Forrest to show no quarter, but to "kill the last God damn one of them." While I was standing at the bottom of the hill, I heard a rebel officer shout out an order of some kind to the men who had taken us, and saw a rebel soldier standing by me. I asked him what the officer had said. He repeated it to me again. It was, "kill the last damn one of them." The soldier replied to his officer that we had surrendered; that we were prisoners and must not be shot. The officer again replied, seeming crazy with rage that he had not been obeyed, "I tell you to kill the last God damned one of them." He then turned and galloped off. I also certify that I saw 2 men shot down while I was under the bluff. They fell nearly at my feet. They had their hands up; had surrendered, and were begging for mercy. I also certify that I saw at least 25 negroes shot down, within 10 or 20 paces from the place where I stood. They had also surrendered, and were begging for mercy. I do also certify that on the ensuing morning I saw negroes who were wounded, and had survived the night, shot and killed as fast as they could be found. One rebel threatened to kill me because I would not tell him where a poor negro soldier was who had been wounded badly, but who had crawled off on his hands and knees and hidden behind a log. I was myself also shot some two hours after I had surrendered.

Mound City, Ill., April 23, 1864.

DANIEL (his x mark) STAMPS.

Witness:

WILLIAM CLEARY,
*Second Lieut. Co. B, 13th Tennessee Cavalry Vols.*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 25th day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 21.]

Statement of James N. Taylor, Company E, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry:

I was at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of the present month when the place was attacked by the rebels under Forrest. I was at first doing duty as a sharpshooter. After about two hours of that work I was ordered within the fort, and obeyed. About 1 p. m., while the flag of truce was under discussion, I plainly saw the enemy engaged in disposing their troops, plundering our camp, and steal-

ing goods from the quartermaster's and other stores. They formed at the same time on two sides of our garrison, and placed their sharpshooters in our deserted barracks. After the order to surrender had been refused the enemy charged upon us, came over the walls in overwhelming force, and the negroes first and the whites afterward, threw down their arms and surrendered. All then started to run down the bluff, closely pursued by and fired upon by the rebels. I was shot after I had surrendered, and while going down the bluff. I also saw them shoot down about 12 colored soldiers, and that after they had surrendered. Some were on their knees with outstretched hands, begging for mercy. I also heard one of General Forrest's officers say, "Kill them, God damn them; it is General Forrest's orders." I also saw on the next morning, the 13th of April, 1864, the rebels come upon the ground and kill all the wounded they could find. I saw them make 2 of the wounded negroes stand upon their feet that they might see them fall again when shot; and shot they were.

Mound City, Ill., April 23, 1864.

JAMES N. (his x mark) TAYLOR.

Witness:

WILLIAM CLEARY,
*Second Lieut. Company B, 13th Tennessee Cavalry.*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 25th day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 22.]

Statement of William P. Walker, Company D, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry:

I hereby certify that I was at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of the present month, when it was attacked by the Confederates. I saw nothing more than has probably been related by a dozen others, until about the time of the panic and the retreat down the bluff by both white and black Union troops. We were followed closely by the rebels and shot down after surrender as fast as they could find us. One of the rebels, after I had given him up my money as he had ordered me, fired upon me twice, after I had surrendered and while I begged for my life. One ball struck me in the left eye. The rebels had almost ceased firing upon us when an officer came down and told them to "Shoot the last damned one of us," and "not to take one prisoner." He said it was the orders of the general (I could not hear the name plainly, but I think it was Chalmers). Then the slaughter of the prisoners was resumed. I saw some 6 white and 10 colored soldiers thus shot, long after they had surrendered, and while the negroes were on their knees begging to be spared.

Mound City, Ill., April 23, A. D. 1864.

WM. P. (his x mark) WALKER.

Witness:

WILLIAM CLEARY,
*Second Lieut. Company B, 13th Tennessee Cavalry.*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 25th day of April, 1864, at Mound City, Ill.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 23.]

Statement of Mrs. Rebecca Williams:

I am the wife of Wm. F. Williams, a private in the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, Company D. I was at Fort Pillow on Wednesday morning after the fight of Tuesday, the 12th of April, 1864, and saw the body of a man which had the appearance of having been burned to death. It was pointed out to me as the body of Lieut. John C. Ackerstrom, of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry. I know it was the corpse of a white man.

Cairo, April 18, 1864.

REBECCA (her x mark) WILLIAMS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of April, 1864.

ISAAC M. TALMADGE,
*Captain and District Provost-Marshal.*

I, the undersigned, do certify that I also witnessed the same spectacle described by Mrs. Williams.

Cairo, April 18, 1864.

NANCY M. (her x mark) HOPPER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of April, 1864.

ISAAC M. TALMADGE,
*Captain and District Provost-Marshal.*

[Inclosure No. 24.]

MOUND CITY, *April* 25, 1864.

Statement of Sergt. William A. Winn, Company B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry Volunteers:

I was in Fort Pillow on Tuesday, the 12th of April, 1864, when the attack was made by General Forrest upon that place. At the firing of the first gun I hastened on board the gun-boat, as I had been wounded some time and could not fight. The first thing I saw afterward was the rebel sharpshooters on the top of the hill and ours at quartermaster's department firing at each other, and the rebels were also firing at the gun-boat. The next thing I saw was a flag of truce come in, which was in waiting some half an hour. This was about 1 p. m., and as soon as it started back the enemy immediately started up the hill on the double-quick, not waiting for the flag of truce to return. As soon as they came close to the fort and had their sharpshooters distributed through our barracks (which were just outside the fort) they opened fire upon the garrison and then charged the works. Those troops that I saw came from the direction that the flag of truce did. I saw our men run down the bluff, the rebels after them shooting them down as fast as they came up with them. I saw 12 or 15 men shot down after they had surrendered, with their hands up begging for mercy. Next I saw them turn their cannon on us (the boat), and threw several shells at the boat trying to sink her, but she steamed up the river out of range, leaving behind us a scene of cold blooded murder too cruel and barbarous for the human mind to express.

W. A. WINN.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 25th day of April, 1864.

WM. STANLEY,
*Lieutenant and Assistant Provost-Marshal.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*May* 4, 1864.

SIR: On April 28 I had the honor to transmit by the hand of Hon. B. F. Wade proofs concerning the affair at Fort Pillow.

On the 30th I also transmitted a duplicate thereof, intending one copy, if it pleased you, for the committee of which Mr. Wade is chairman.

I now, as therein promised, send additional proofs, since secured, to be added to those first sent.

For list* thereof see next page.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
*Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

Statement of Sandy Addison, private Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored):

I, Sandy Addison, private Company A, Sixth U. S. Artillery (colored), would on oath state the following:

I was in the battle fought at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and that I was taken prisoner about 5 p. m. same day. After the fort had been carried by the enemy the U. S. troops took shelter under the bluff of the hill, the officers all being killed or wounded. The white flag was raised by one of the colored men, but they kept firing upon us. I do not know how many, but a great many were killed under the white flag. I was taken over 2 miles, and camped for the night. There were several other prisoners with us. The surgeon dressed their wounds. He sent 3 colored men back to the river under the flag of truce. After they had got a little way off the rebels shot them down while they were going back to the boat; afterward they shot a man (he being wounded he could not go fast enough), and made some plantation hands bury him.

I was prisoner five days, and made my escape.

SANDY (his x mark) ADDISON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April, 1864, at Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. 6th U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

Statement of Wilbur H. Gaylord, first sergeant Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored):

I was in the battle fought at Fort Pillow on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864. The engagement commenced about 6.30 a. m. I was stationed about 20 rods outside the fort, with 20 men, in a southeast direction (this was about 6.30 a. m.), with orders from Maj. L. F. Booth to hold the position as long as possible without being captured. I staid there with the men about one hour. While there

*Omitted. The documents appear in their proper order.

the rebels came within 30 rods, and tried to steal horses. They got two horses, and at the same time stuck a rebel flag on the fortifications. While I held this position the white men (Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry) on my right retreated to the fort. About ten minutes after this I went with my men to the fort. While going into the fort I saw Lieutenant Barr, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, shot down by my side. He was shot through the head. He fell outside the fortifications about 6 feet. Ten minutes after getting into the fort Maj. L. F. Booth was shot at port-hole No. 2, while standing directly in the rear of the gun; was shot directly through the heart; expired instantly. I carried him to the bank of the river. As soon as I returned Captain Epeneter, Company A, was wounded in the head while standing at port-hole No. 4. He immediately went to the hospital, which was below the river bank, about halfway down I should think. Ten men were killed before a flag of truce came in, which was about 12 m. Five men, who were all dressed alike came with the flag from the rebels, and Major Bradford, of Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, who had now assumed command, asked one hour's time to consider, on the conclusion of which he returned a decided refusal. The fire on both sides now commenced and was kept up about half an hour with great fury, when the rebels charged over the works. (I should have said that General Forrest came with the flag.) The enemy was checked and held for a few minutes. As soon as they were fairly on the works I was wounded with a musket-ball through the right ankle. I should think that 200 rebels passed over the works and passed by me while I lay there. When one rebel noticed that I was alive shot at me again and missed me. I told him I was wounded and that I would surrender, when a Texas ranger stepped up and took me prisoner. Just at this time I saw them shoot down 3 black men who were begging for their lives, and who had surrendered. The rebels now helped me through port-hole No. 4. The ranger who took me captured a colored soldier whom he sent with me; he also sent a guard. They took me to picket-post No. 2. There I was put into an ambulance and taken to a farm-house with one of their dead, who was a chaplain. There I was made to lie out doors all night on account of the house being filled with their wounded. I bandaged my own wound with my drawers, and a colored man brought water and set by me so that I could keep my foot wet.

Next morning Colonel McCulloch came there and sent a squad of men, having pressed all the conveyances he could find to take away his own wounded. Not finding sufficient, nor having negroes enough they made stretchers of blankets. They could not carry me, and so left me at the farm-house. The man's name was Stone. He got me into the house, and into bed. He and his wife were very kind to me.

While Colonel McCulloch was there he told me Memphis, Tenn., was probably in the hands of the rebels. The rear guard of the rebels left there Wednesday about 5 p. m. The rebels took a young man whose father lived near here, and who had been wounded in the fight, to the woods and shot three more shots into his back and into his head and left him until Friday morning, when the citizens took him in. They brought him to the house where I was and then carried us both to Fort Pillow in a cart that they fixed up for the occasion, in hopes of getting us on board of a gun-boat. Upon our arrival there a gun-boat lay on the opposite bank, but we could not hail her. We laid on the bank. They took the young man back to

a house three-fourths of a mile, but I would not go back. I laid there until a gun-boat, the Silver Cloud, took me off about 2 a. m. Saturday. They treated me with the utmost kindness on board the boat.

Fort Pickering, Tenn., April 28, 1864.

WILBUR H. GAYLORD,
*First Sergt. Co. B, 6th U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), 1st Batt.*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April, 1864, at Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. 6th U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

[Inclosure No. 3.]

Statement of Frank Hogan, corporal Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).

I, Frank Hogan, corporal in Company A, of the Sixth Regiment U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), would on oath state the following:

That I was in the battle fought at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864; and that I was taken prisoner by the enemy, and I saw Captain Carson and heard some of the enemy ask him if he belonged to a nigger regiment. He told them he did. They then asked him how he came here. He told them he was detailed there. Then they told him they would give him a detail, and immediately shot him dead, after being a prisoner without arms. I also saw 2 lieutenants, whose names I did not know, but who belonged to the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry. I also saw them kill 3 sick men that were lying helpless in their tents. , I saw them make our men (colored) pull the artillery, whipping them at the same time in the most shameful manner. I also saw them bury 1 of our men alive, being only wounded. I heard Colonel McCulloch, C. S. Army, ask his adjutant how many men were killed and wounded. The adjutant told him he had a list of 300, and that all the reports were not in yet. Colonel McCulloch was commanding a brigade. I also heard a captain, C. S. Army, tell Colonel McCulloch, C. S. Army, that 10 men were killed out of his own company.

FRANK (his x mark) HOGAN.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April, 1864, at Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. 6th U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

[Inclosure No. 4.]

Statement of George Huston private of Company B, Sixth Regiment U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored):

I, George Huston, private of Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, would on oath state the following:

That I was in the battle fought at Fort Pillow on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and that the fort was carried by the enemy about 3 p. m. of the 12th of April. The remaining portion of our troops fled from the fort and took refuge under river bank, when Corpl. Jerry Stewart and Sergt. Manuel Underwood raised a white flag, but the enemy paid no attention to it at all. A rebel officer rode up to the bank and said that General Forrest ordered every damned nigger to be shot down. So the enemy kept on firing on our defenseless men,

and killed a great many of them. I heard firing all night, but I hid myself under the bank of the river till the gun-boat No. 28 came to my relief.

GEORGE (his x mark) HUSTON.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 30th day of April, 1864, at Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. 6th U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

[Inclosure No. 5.]

Statement of James Lewis, private of Company C, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored):

I, James Lewis, private Company C, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), would on oath state the following:

I was in the battle fought at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864. The engagement commenced early in the morning and lasted until 3 p. m. same day, at which time the enemy carried the fort. The U. S. troops took refuge under the bank of the river. The officers all being killed or wounded, the men raised the white flag and surrendered, but the rebels kept on firing until most all the men were shot down. I was wounded and knocked down with the butt of a musket, and left for dead after being robbed, and they cut the buttons off my jacket. I saw 2 women shot by the river bank, and their bodies thrown into the river after the place was taken. I saw Frank Meeks, Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), shot after he had surrendered.

JAMES (his x mark) LEWIS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April, 1864, at Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. 6th U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

[Inclosure No. 6.]

Statement of Jerry Stewart, corporal Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored):

I, Jerry Stewart, a corporal of Company A, of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), would on oath state the following:

That I was in the battle fought at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and I was taken prisoner about 4 p. m. of the same day by the Confederates. After the enemy had carried the works I saw them shoot about 100 colored men down when they were without arms. They shot 1 down by my side while we were going up the hill, and he fell against me. They shot at me several times, but I did not get wounded. I saw the sutler (A. Alexander) cruelly murdered by rebels and his pockets [*sic*]. They asked him first where he belonged. He told them he was a sutler. They then told him he was no better than the rest, and they shot him and buried him with some colored men. I heard a lieutenant in the Confederate army say that a Federal tried to get away, and he put five balls through him. I saw Capt. Charles J. Epeneter, Lieut. P. Bischoff, First Sergt. John Thompson, of Company A, Sixth Regiment U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), taken prisoners. Lieut. D. Hubank [J. J. Eubank?] told me to tell him if there were any nigger officers taken prisoners, and to point them out to him. I told him I did not know of any. A private soldier of the Confederate

army told me that all the colored boys that could escape had best to do so by all means, for General Forrest was going to burn or whip them to death after they got farther south.

JERRY (his x mark) STEWART.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April, 1864, at Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. 6th U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery.*

[Inclosure No. 7.]

FORT PICKERING, TENN., *April* 22, 1864.

Statement of Henry F. Weaver, first sergeant Company C, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), of the battle at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, 1864:

I called the roll of my company soon after daylight, and had gone to the bank of the river, and was there talking to Second Lieut. T. W. McClure, of my company, and had not been here long when we heard an uncommon noise and commotion around headquarters, and soon the cry that the rebels were coming. We had the company fall in as soon as possible, when we were ordered to take possession of two 10-pounder Parrott guns, and soon another order to take them inside the works, which was done immediately and put in battery on the south end of the works, Lieutenant McClure taking command of the right gun and giving me the left gun, for which I had to build a platform before it could be used to any effect; but the platform was soon built and the gun in position, and I was firing at the advancing enemy as they came in sight. In the mean time Company B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, had left their camp on a hill in front of our main fort and came rushing back in disorder, leaving their horses and all their camp equipage behind. The rebels soon commenced running off the horses under a brisk fire of musketry and a section of artillery of Company D, Second U. S. Light Artillery (colored), commanded by First Lieutenant Hunter. Still farther to the left was a section of light artillery, manned by Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, under the command of Captain Epeneter and Lieutenant Bischoff. By this time (8 o'clock) the enemy's sharpshooters had commenced a brisk fire on the fort, which was kept up with little intermission until about 2 o'clock, when the flag of truce was sent in demanding a surrender. Early in the action Lieutenant Hill, Company C, Sixth U. S. and post adjutant, was killed while outside the fort setting fire to the quarters of the Thirteenth Cavalry, and it was not long before Major Booth, of the Sixth U. S., and commander of the post, was killed, falling near the trail of my gun, and was carried away. The command was devolved upon Major Bradford, of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry. About noon the rebels commenced receiving re-enforcements, and soon advanced close up to the fort, getting into the houses of the cavalry and some rifle-pits we had made a few days before, and which proved of more use to them than to us, and kept up such a brisk fire that it was almost impossible to work the guns. The cannoneers were all killed or wounded at my place except one or two, and also at Lieutenant Hunter's gun, and my ammunition was almost gone; and I will here state that not more than one in five of the shells burst, owing to poor fuses. It was near 2 o'clock when a flag of truce was seen advancing, and the firing ceased on both sides, and an officer was sent by Major

Bradford to see what was wanted. He soon returned with a demand for our surrender, stating that our brave defense had entitled us to be treated as prisoners of war; but if we did not surrender they should charge our works, and we would have to take the consequences. All this time the rebels took advantage of the truce and moved up close under our works, and took their positions ready for a charge. The demand to surrender was refused, and up to this time but few had been killed but a good many wounded; but now the charge came, and as they came up they gave their usual yell, and the Thirteenth Cavalry fled for the banks of the river. When the cavalry commenced to break our colored men wavered, and the rebels had by this time succeeded in entering the fort. Lieutenant Van Horn begged and ordered them to stop, but each one sought safety in flight, as the rebels had commenced an indiscriminate slaughter of the black soldiers, and, as far as I could see, every one was shot down as fast as rebels could shoot their guns and revolvers. Some were shot down so close to me that they would nearly fall on me. I surrendered, the rebel remarking that they did not shoot white men, but wanted to know what in hell I was there fighting with the damned nigger for. I soon got away from him, for he was too intent on murder to mind me; but had gone but a few steps when another rebel met me and demanded my greenbacks, and after robbing me of everything but my clothes he left me as not worthy of his further notice. I then went down the river to the quartermaster's house, where I found Lieutenant Van Horn. We staid there about ten minutes, when a rebel came in and again demanded our surrender. I told him I had done so twice already. He then ordered us to follow him. We did, going up into town and into a store, where he commenced to pillage and I to get on some citizen's clothing, which I soon did, and got out of the store. I now missed Lieutenant Van Horn, and did not see him again until the next Sunday, when I found he had escaped and got back to Fort Pickering before me. Companies B and D were outside the fort in the rifle-pits until the enemy received his re-enforcements, when they retired inside of the fort. Major Booth, from the time he took command of the post at Fort Pillow, was strengthening the same by throwing up rifle-pits, building platforms, and making embrasures in the fort for the purpose of working his guns. I succeeded in making my escape by getting citizen's clothing and playing off as rebel. I then hid myself under the bank of the river until a tug-boat came along, which I boarded.

HENRY F. WEAVER,
*Company C, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of April, 1864, at Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

[Inclosure No. 8.]

Statement of Jacob Wilson, private of Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored):

I, Jacob Wilson, a private of Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, would on oath state the following:

That I was in the battle fought at Fort Pillow on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and after seven hours' hard fighting we were

overpowered and driven down the bank from the fort. At that time, the officers all being wounded, the men threw down their arms and were taken prisoners by the enemy. I saw Sergt. William Morgan, Private Reuben Jones, Private William Lincoln, Private Samuel Tangesley, and Private Charles Cross, of Company B, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), and many others of the regiment, shot by the rebels after they had taken us prisoners.

JACOB (his x mark) WILSON.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 29th day of April, 1864, at Fort Pickering, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

[Inclosure No. 9.]

Statement of Philip Young, private of Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored):

I, Philip Young, private Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), would on oath state the following:

I was in the engagement fought at Fort Pillow, Tenn., on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1864, and that I was taken prisoner after the fort was carried by the enemy. I saw at least 100 men shot down after they had surrendered. One of the Confederate soldiers drew his revolver and said, "God damm you, I will shoot you," when I told him I had surrendered. I was prisoner thirteen days. I heard repeatedly said by rebel officers that they intended to kill the last one of the negroes after they got as far down south as they wanted to. A captain in the Confederate army swore he would shoot me after I had been prisoner thirteen days. While at Holly Springs, Miss., there were 104 white men prisoners and about 30 colored men prisoners.

PHILIP (his x mark) YOUNG.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April, A. D. 1864, at Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

MALCOM F. SMITH,
*First Lieut. and Adjt. Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

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No. 2.

*Reports of Capt. James H. Odlin, Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, of operations March 24–26.*

[MARCH 24.]

GENERAL: Just arrived. Train safe. They cut the wires. Colonel Hawkins was attacked at 3 a. m. They are on the Dresden and Hickman road. Colonel Hawkins wants re-enforcements. They had better be sent to this point immediately, and can then go where needed; look out for Paducah; they will try that. I have just sent an engine out to try and fix the wires and get information from Colonel Hawkins. My last order was to hold the place, and we would re-enforce him. He said he thought it impossible to get back to Columbus. We caught a spy in Colonel Hawkins' camp last night.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

General BRAYMAN, *Cairo, Ill.*

COLUMBUS, KY,
*March* 24, 1864—8.30 a. m.

It was east of Union City, at the bridge over the Obion River. They have artillery; cannot find actual strength. They seized all citizens, and it was dark. They brought the artillery to the front as soon as shots were exchanged. No communication with Colonel Hawkins; he has no artillery. The boat left at 4 a. m., to bring the Hickman troops away. Could not get from Union City any sooner to give orders. They cut the line while I was sending a dispatch. I then brought the train through safe. I have concentrated two colored companies at one bridge that were scattered along the road. They are conscripting everybody. I have just sent the engine out to try and fix the wires, and get information from Colonel Hawkins. My last order was to hold the place, and we would re-enforce him. He said he thought it was impossible to get back to Columbus. We caught a spy in Colonel Hawkins' camp last night, but could not get any information from him.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Brigadier-General BRAYMAN,
*Cairo.*

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COLUMBUS, *March* 24, 1864—10.10 a. m.

Have my scouts all over the country; only one returned; he came from the direction of Milburn; the rebels there; their object is Union City and Hickman. They are taking their time, thinking we have no force to send out. If we re-enforce Colonel Hawkins and then [unite] with your force I think we can make a clean sweep of them. It must be done promptly, for Colonel Hawkins cannot hold out long. I have no word from him since I left him. The citizens that are coming in think their object is above named place. Our scouts due here yesterday morning are probably captured.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Brigadier-General BRAYMAN.

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COLUMBUS, *March* 24, 1864—10.20 a. m.

Colonel Hawkins is cut off. The engine I sent out has just returned. They have burned the bridge at State Line. The guard is retreating this way. The rebels between this point and Colonel Hawkins. The guard tried to join Colonel Hawkins, but could not. The bridge was on fire when they left. Rebels coming this way.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

General BRAYMAN.

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PADUCAH, *March* 26, 1864—11.15 a. m.

SIR: We are hard pressed; send re-enforcements without fail. Ammunition is scarce.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

General BRAYMAN.

PADUCAH, *March* 26, 1864.

Colonel Hicks safe. Rebels retreated on the Mayfield road. Rebel loss, 300 killed; wounded, unknown; they acknowledge to the above number killed. Forrest's force about 6,500, and four pieces of artillery were seen. Rebel Generals Forrest, Harris [?], Bainbridge [?], and A. P. Thompson were present at the fight.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Brigadier-General BRAYMAN.

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METROPOLIS, *March* 26, 1864.

Colonel Hicks victorious. Forrest badly damaged. Rebels left at 12 m. Colonel Hicks wants ammunition—.58 caliber Enfield rifle. Captain Pennock can furnish it. Troops just arrived.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

General BRAYMAN.

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PADUCAH, *March* 26, 1864.

The enemy still in force in our front. Citizens report his main force retreating on Mayfield road.

Colonel Hicks says lookout for Columbus and Cairo. A flag of truce just left. They want to negotiate the exchange of prisoners. This is the third flag of truce. They demanded a surrender twice, the last time saying they would give no quarter if refused.

We can and will hold out until re-enforced. The colonel says, "Can't see any surrender, General Forrest." He has 500 prisoners from Union City.

Rebel brigadier, A. P. Thompson, killed.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Brigadier-General BRAYMAN, or
Captain PENNOCK.

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PADUCAH, *March* 26, 1864—7 p. m.

The rebels are making for Columbus. Be there to-night. Our scouts just returned. No doubt of this.

J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Brigadier-General BRAYMAN.

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No. 3.

*Report of Capt. John W. Beatty, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Union City.*

CAIRO, ILL.,
*April* 12, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that I have made my escape from the enemy, after being surrendered, together with 16 officers

and about 500 enlisted men, by Col. Isaac R. Hawkins, at Union City, Tenn., on the 24th of March, after fighting six hours and repulsing the enemy four times.

The enemy drove in our pickets at 4 a. m., 24th March, and skirmishing commenced soon after, and by sunrise our camps were entirely surrounded. Their force numbered about 1,500, commanded by Colonels Faulkner, Bell, Duckworth, Faris [?], Freeman, Tansil, and Russell. They first made a charge, mounted, and finding that they were losing a great many men and horses, dismounted and made three unsuccessful charges with heavy loss in killed and wounded. Finding it impossible to rout our forces from their works, fell back in great confusion, taking shelter behind fallen timber, stumps, &c., their sharpshooters keeping up a continuous fire until fifteen minutes to 11 o'clock, when they ceased firing and sent in a flag of truce, demanding an unconditional surrender of our force, &c., giving Colonel Hawkins fifteen minutes to make up his mind, stating that they would take the camp by storm as they had re-enforcements close at hand.

Colonel Hawkins called together the officers and asked them what they were in favor of doing. I remarked if they had artillery they could whip us; if not they never could get inside our works. All the officers said fight except Maj. Thomas A. Smith. Just at that time the telegraph operator said that they had two pieces of artillery; that he had seen them. Colonel Hawkins said that it would save a great many lives if we would surrender, and that if we renewed the fight they would kill every one that might fall into their hands. We, the officers, then agreed to surrender on condition that they would parole the officers and men and allow the men to keep their private property and the officers their side arms; otherwise we would fight as long as there was a man left.

Colonel Hawkins then went out and met Duckworth at 11 o'clock, and ten minutes after 11 o'clock the rebels came in, and Colonel Hawkins ordered that all commanders of companies and detachments march their men outside of the fort, or works, and require them to lay down their arms. Afterward we found that Colonel Hawkins had made an unconditional surrender. The officers and men cried like a whipped child. They also cursed Colonel Hawkins, and said he was a traitor, and that they would never serve under him again.

At 12 o'clock the rebels burned our barracks and marched us via Jacksonville to Gardner's Station, on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad, a distance of 16 miles, where we camped for the night. Lieutenants Hawkins and Helmer during the night made their escape.

On the next morning, March 25, at sunrise, we were marched 15 miles toward Trenton, Tenn., where we encamped for the night. The rebels gave our men about 1 ounce meat each, and no bread; this was the first that they ate since the evening of 23d.

March 26, we started at sunrise and marched to Trenton, Tenn., where the citizens sold our men biscuits at $5 per dozen and baked chickens at $5 each.

March 27, we remained at Trenton during the day. The rebels drew our men up in line and marched them into the court-house and searched each man as he went in, robbing them of their money, blankets, &c. Lieutenants Neely, Bradford, and Morgan made their escape at Trenton. Colonel Hawkins said that he would have any officer dismissed from the service that would leave the rebels. They offered to parole Colonel Hawkins at Trenton, but he refused to accept it. The rebel officers told me that they knew they would get

our regiment when they were 400 miles south of Union City, Tenn. They also said they were willing to parole Colonel Hawkins and let him get some more horses and arms, and then they would come and get them.

March 28, we marched to Humboldt, a distance of 15 miles, where Capt. P. K. Parsons and myself made our escape.

JOHN W. BEATTY,
*Captain Company K, Seventh Tenn. Vol. Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. M. BRAYMAN,
*Commanding District of Cairo.*

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No. 4.

*Report of Capt. Thomas P. Gray, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Union City.*

CAIRO, ILL.,
*April* 4, 1864.*

SIR: On the 23d of March it was generally understood at the said post that at least a portion of the rebel General Forrest's command were advancing on us. About 8 p. m. of that day the advance of the enemy were seen and fired upon, near Jacksonville, 6 miles from Union City, by a small scouting party sent in that direction from our post. This party reported the facts immediately to Colonel Hawkins, of the Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, who was commander of the post. The picket guard was then doubled, and two or three companies were ordered to keep their horses saddled during the night.

I was notified at 4.30 a. m. of the 24th of March to order my horses saddled. About 5 o'clock firing commenced all around the line of pickets. The main part of Company B, Captain Martin, were abreast, and a part of Company I, also, I think. The remaining force, about 500 strong, were distributed around at the breast-works. The pickets were driven in, with a loss of 2 killed and several wounded. About 5.30 a. m. a cavalry charge was made from the south side. It was repulsed with but little difficulty. The same was immediately dismounted and charged again, this time coming within 20 or 30 yards of the breast-works. They were repulsed again, and with considerable loss this time. Immediately following this another charge was made in front from the northwest, and again repulsed. Immediately following this, the fourth charge, and last, was made from the northeast, which charge confronted my company, and were repulsed again with loss. This charge was made at about 8 a. m. About this time the colonel came to this part of the works. I remarked to him that it was my opinion the rebels were defeated in their first programme; that they would either leave the field or assemble and make a consolidated charge. Our troops were in fine spirits. Sharpshooting lasted till 9.30 a. m., when an escort, with a flag of truce, approached my position. I sent notification to Colonel Hawkins of the approaching truce flag, and then advanced in person and halted the truce escort 200 yards from the defenses. Then Colonel Hawkins came; a document was handed him, the contents of which I know not. At this time the

*A similar report under date of March 31 is on file with Brayman's report.

rebel troops were in full view, in the logs and stumps. The truce escort retired, and in twenty minutes after again came. I again halted them on the same ground as before, and remained with them during this interview. This time an order was handed to Colonel Hawkins, which I read. As near as I can remember, it read as follows:

HEADQUARTERS C. S. FORCES,
*In the Field, March* 24, 1864.

*Commanding Officer U. S. Forces at Union City, Tenn.:*

SIR: I have your garrison completely surrounded, and demand an unconditional surrender of your forces. If you comply with the demand, you are promised the treatment due to prisoners of war, according to usages in civilized warfare. If you persist in defense, you must take the consequences.

By order of Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest.

Then followed a council of our officers, in which a large majority violently opposed any capitulation whatever with the enemy. Notwithstanding this, the colonel made a surrender at 11 a. m., which, to the best of my knowledge and belief, was unconditional. No artillery was seen or used. The surrendered troops were very indignant on hearing of the surrender. Only 1 man had been killed, and 2 or 3 wounded inside of the works. It was generally believed to be a rebel defeat. Our troops, after grounding arms, were marched away on foot. The rebel troops were commanded by Colonel Duckworth, and as nearly as I could estimate them there were 800.

A list of prisoners was made on the 26th, at Trenton, which numbered 481, including 10 of Hardy's men and a few of the Twenty-fourth Missouri Infantry, who were doing provost duty.

T. P. GRAY,
*Captain Company C, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry.*

[Brig. Gen. M. BRAYMAN.]

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No. 5.

*Report of Lieut. Robert W. Helmer, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Union City.*

CAIRO, ILL.,
*March* 31, 1864.

The forces were attacked about 4.30 a. m. by a part of rebel Major-General Forrest's forces, commanded by Colonel Duckworth, estimated at 1,200 men. Immediately after the attack Colonel Hawkins ordered his forces inside of a fort or earth-work, built by order of Colonel Hawkins for the defense of the post. The works were soon surrounded by the rebels, who made two charges on the fort, but were each time handsomely repulsed; afterward withdrawing their force about 400 yards, keeping up a constant firing with small-arms from behind fallen timber and railroad embankment, &c., until 9 a. m., when a flag of truce was sent by the rebels, with a written demand, purporting to be by order of Major-General Forrest, for the unconditional surrender of the fort, which was received by Colonel Hawkins, after which he called together his officers, who numbered 4 captains and 9 lieutenants, for consultation, remarking that he was satisfied that the enemy had artillery, and wished to know their choice, surrender or fight.

Out of the above number of officers 2 captains opposed the surrender; the lieutenants were not asked to express themselves, but were generally in favor of fighting.

The majority of the enlisted men were bitterly opposed to the surrender.

In about fifteen minutes after the demand was made for the surrender the fort, with about 400 enlisted men and 300 horses, horse equipments, arms, &c., was by Colonel Hawkins surrendered to the enemy.

After getting up their spoils the enemy, together with the captured forces, were marched out a distance of 16 miles, in the direction of Dresden, Tenn., where they halted and pitched camp.

After remaining, say two hours, I made my escape, and made my way to this place.

R. W. HELMER,
*First Lieutenant Company K, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry.*

[Brig. Gen. M. BRAYMAN.]

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No. 6.

*Reports of Col. Stephen G. Hicks, Fortieth Illinois Infantry, of attack on Paducah, etc.*

PADUCAH, KY.,
*March* 26, 1864.

A wounded rebel in my hospital informs me that the enemy is preparing to make a run on Columbus. Their force is now 4 miles from here, as I am reliably informed.

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel, Commanding Post.*

Brig. Gen. M. BRAYMAN,
*Commanding.*

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PADUCAH, KY.,
*March* 27, 1864.

Ten Home Guards from the country surprised and killed Colonel Crossen [Crossland?] and 7 of his guerrillas, 6 miles south of Mayeld, last night at 10 o'clock.

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

General BRAYMAN.

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PADUCAH, *April* 14, 1864.

We are attacked by Buford's force. One hour is given to the women and children to get out of the city. I cannot now estimate the force attacking. I am fully prepared, but am short of ammunition. Send me some more.

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

General BRAYMAN.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF PADUCAH,
*Paducah, Ky., April* 6, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report in relation to the late engagement with the rebel General Forrest:

On the 25th instant my scouts came in at about 12 m., bringing no news of the enemy's whereabouts. I immediately ordered out others, and directed them to proceed on the Mayfield road. They had gone but 3 miles when they were met by Forrest's advance guard, who fired upon them. They hurriedly fell back and gave the alarm, and in less than ten minutes after they reported the enemy were driving in my pickets, who opened a skirmish fire and fell back to Fort Anderson, according to previous instructions. I immediately ordered the little force under my command to double-quick to the fort, which order was promptly obeyed; yet, before they could reach there, such was the impetuosity of the attack that their rear was fired into by the enemy.

At 2 p. m. the enemy took position surrounding the fort and a sharp fight commenced, which in a few minutes became furious and continued for about one hour, when it was announced that a flag of truce was approaching. I immediately ordered my men to cease firing, and sent out to meet the bearer, from whom I received the following demand for a surrender:

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY CORPS,
*Paducah, Ky., March* 25, 1864.

Colonel HICKS,
*Commanding Federal Forces at Paducah:*

COLONEL: Having a force amply sufficient to carry your works and reduce the place, and in order to avoid the unnecessary effusion of blood, I demand the surrender of the fort and troops, with all public property. If you surrender, you shall be treated as prisoners of war; but if I have to storm your works, you may expect no quarter.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding Confederate Troops.*

To which I replied as follows:

HEADQUARTERS POST OF PADUCAH,
*Paducah, Ky., March* 25, 1864.

Maj. Gen. N. B. FORREST,
*Commanding Confederate Forces:*

SIR: I have this moment received yours of this instant, in which you demand the unconditional surrender of the forces under my command. I can answer that I have been placed here by my Government to defend this post, and in this, as well as all other orders from my superiors, I feel it to be my duty as an honorable officer to obey. I must, therefore, respectfully decline surrendering as you may require.

Very respectfully,

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel, Commanding Post.*

While the flag of truce was near the fort, and during its pendency, the enemy were engaged in taking position and planting a battery. As soon as the answer was returned they moved forward, and our forces opened on them, and the fight became general. They attempted to storm our works, but were repulsed. They rallied and tried it again, and met the same fate. They made a third effort, but were forced to abandon their design. It was in this last struggle that Brig. Gen. A. P. Thompson (Confederate) was killed.

I now discovered, on examination, that my ammunition was growing short, and out of 30,000 rounds (the amount we commenced the

fight with) 27,000 had been already expended. In this emergency I ordered the remainder to be equally distributed; the men to fix their bayonets; to make good use of the ammunition they had, and, when that was exhausted, to receive the enemy on the point of the bayonet, feeling fully determined never to surrender while I had a man alive. When this order was repeated by the officers to their respective commands, it was received with loud shouts and cheers.

The enemy's sharpshooters in the mean time got possession of the houses around and near the fort, from which position they picked off some of my gunners, shooting nearly all of them in the head.

Toward dark the enemy took shelter behind houses, in rooms, and hollows, and kept up a scattering fire until 11.30 o'clock, when it entirely ceased, and the rebel general withdrew his command out of the range of my guns and went into camp for the night.

On the morning of the 26th, the enemy again made a demonstration by surrounding the fort in the distance. As soon as I discovered this I ordered Major Barnes, of the Sixteenth Kentucky Cavalry, to send out squads to burn all the houses within musket-range of the fort, from which the sharpshooters had annoyed us the day previous. While the houses were burning General Forrest sent in a second flag of truce, with the following communication:

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY CORPS,
*Near Paducah, Ky., March* 26, 1864.

Col. S. G. HICKS,
*Commanding Federal Forces at Paducah, Ky.:*

SIR: I understand you hold in your possession in the guard-house at Paducah a number of Confederate soldiers as prisoners of war. I have in my possession about 35 or 40 Federal soldiers who were captured here yesterday, and about 500 who were captured at Union City. I propose to exchange man for man, according to rank, so far as you may hold Confederate soldiers.

Respectfully,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding Confederate Forces.*

In answer to which I sent the following:

HEADQUARTERS POST OF PADUCAH,
*Paducah, Ky., March* 26, 1864.

Maj. Gen. N. B. FORREST,
*Commanding Confederate Forces:*

SIR: I have no power to make the exchange. If I had, I would most cheerfully do it.

Very respectfully,

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel Fortieth Illinois Infantry, Commanding Post.*

With the above General Forrest sent a list of the names of the prisoners captured, all of whom, with one exception, were convalescents in the general hospital, and too feeble to get to the fort.

The following troops composed my command during the fight: Companies C, H, and K, One hundred and twenty-second Illinois Infantry, commanded by Maj. J. F. Chapman, 120 men; Sixteenth Kentucky Cavalry, Major Barnes commanding, 271 men; First Kentucky Heavy Artillery (colored), 274 men, commanded by Lieut. R. D. Cunningham, of the Second Illinois Artillery, making a total of 665 men.

Opposed to this was the rebel force under the command of Generals Forrest, Buford, J. G. Harris [?], and A. P. Thompson, of 6,500 men.

The casualties of my command were 14 killed and 46 wounded.

The enemy's loss, according to the most reliable information that I can obtain, was 300 killed and from 1,000 to 1,200 wounded. His killed and wounded may be safely set down at 1,500. General Forrest admitted, in conversation with some of his friends in this city, that in no engagement during the war had he been so badly cut up and crippled as at this place.

Our loss in Government stores was inconsiderable. The quartermaster's depot, a temporary wooden building, was burned, and in consequence thereof a small lot of quartermaster's property was lost. Our commissary stores, and most of our Government horses, mules, wagons, &c., were saved.

In justice to the officers and soldiers under my command allow me to say they acted well their part, proving themselves worthy of the great cause in which they are engaged, and all deserving of the highest praise. The three companies of the One hundred and twenty-second Illinois were the only portion of my command that had ever been under fire before. And here permit me to remark that I have been one of those men who never had much confidence in colored troops fighting, but those doubts are now all removed, for they fought as bravely as any troops in the fort.

The gun-boats Peosta, Captain Smith, and Paw Paw, Captain O'Neil, were present and rendered valuable aid in shelling the city and operating on the flank of the enemy as they surrounded the fort.

A list of the names of the killed and wounded I will furnish hereafter.

Respectfully submitted.

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel Fortieth Illinois Infantry, Commanding Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS POST OF PADUCAH,
*Paducah, Ky., April* 20, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that at 12 m. on Thursday, the 14th instant, the rebel General Buford, with the Third, Seventh, and Eighth Kentucky Confederate Cavalry,* about 2,000 strong, made a dash on this place, as usual coming in under white flags. When in range of my pickets they fired upon them; the fire was returned, and the guards fell back to Fort Anderson, where I concentrated all my force. The enemy now made their appearance in the skirts of the timber about 1 mile distant. The guns in the fort immediately opened upon them. They then started a flag of truce in the direction of the fort. I sent my adjutant out to meet it. On approaching the bearer, Lieutenant-Colonel Marco, he ordered him to remain where he was and sent the communication to me, of which the following is a copy:

HEADQUARTERS CONFEDERATE FORCES,
*In front of Paducah, Ky., April* 14, 1864.

Colonel HICKS,
*Commanding Post:*

SIR: Reluctant to endanger the lives of women and children and non-combat-

*Mounted Infantry.

ants, I respectfully request that you order all such out of the town. They will be allowed to pass through my lines, and will be allowed one hour to get out.

I am, very respectfully,

A. BUFORD,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Forces.*

To which I replied :

HEADQUARTERS POST OF PADUCAH,
*Paducah, Ky., April* 14, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BUFORD,
*Commanding Confederate Forces:*

SIR: I have this moment received yours of this date. Your notice of one hour to let the women and children out exhibits an act of humanity on your part, but do not allow your men to sack the city during that time, nor attempt to take position, or I will fire on you. After that time come ahead; I am ready for you.

Very respectfully,

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel, Commanding Post.*

Notwithstanding this warning, and while I was giving the notice according to agreement to "women and children and non-combatants," and withholding my fire, parties of the enemy were going through the upper part of the city, under protection of white flags, breaking into houses and robbing and plundering.

This being brought to my notice by one of the messengers I sent out, I immediately ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Eaton, Seventy-second Ohio, with 200 men to pass up the river under cover of the gunboats and guns of the fort and drive them from the city.

On appearance of Colonel Eaton's command on the streets, the enemy fell back to the main force, which immediately commenced retreating in the direction of Mayfield.

I now commenced shelling them from the fort, the gun-boats also opening upon them, but with what effect I am unable to learn.

We sustained no loss from this raid except in Government horses, about 40 of which were taken during the pending of the flag of truce.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. G. HICKS,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*ADDENDA.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO,
*Cairo, Ill., April* 2, 1864.

Col. S. G. HICKS,
*Commanding, Paducah, Ky.:*

DEAR SIR: Your gallant and successful defense of your post against a force so superior that to have been overpowered would have been no dishonor has awakened the deepest gratitude and admiration, not only of your fellow soldiers, but of the patriotic and loyal throughout the country. Threatened at this point and at Columbus, with a force entirely inadequate for defense, I was unable to relieve you as promptly and as fully as your condition required.

In maintaining your position and defeating an enemy ten times your own number in a series of desperate conflicts, you more than sustained your well-earned character as a brave and accomplished officer, and the few but noble and gallant men you commanded proved to be every man a hero. I cannot better convey to you and

them the expression of my own feelings than by repeating a portion of a communication from Maj. Gen. S. A. Hurlbut, commanding the Sixteenth Army Corps, on the same subject:

I am very much pleased with the report from Paducah. Convey to Colonel Hicks and his officers and men my thanks for their good conduct, which thanks will be forwarded to them in orders as soon as I receive the official details.
The destruction of Paducah is well deserved.

Awaiting your official report, I remain, your obedient servant,
M. BRAYMAN,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

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No. 7.

*Report of Maj. James F. Chapman, One hundred and twenty-second Illinois Infantry, of attack on Paducah.*

HDQRS. DETACHMENT 122D ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
*Paducah, Ky., March 29,* 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report the part taken by my command in the engagement at this place on the 25th day of March, 1864, between the forces of General N. B. Forrest and those under your command:

Early on the morning of the 25th, I received orders of you through Lieut. Sargeant McKnight to keep my command in readiness to move at a moment's warning, and in case of an alarm to move into Fort Anderson at once. Between 1 and 2 p. m. a scout informed me that the enemy were in 3 miles of the city and approaching very rapidly. I immediately formed my men and moved to the fort as ordered, and formed my command on the west side of the fort, with my right and left respectively resting near two 24-pounder siege guns, while in my center was a 24-pounder howitzer. In this position I awaited the approach of the enemy. At about 3 o'clock I discovered them forming in my front at a distance of 1,000 yards. They very soon moved forward in three lines, with skirmishers in front. The latter took possession of some dwellings and the general hospital No. 1, and commenced firing at us through the windows and around the corners of the houses. From this position they were soon dislodged. About this time a flag of truce was seen coming in, and I ordered my men to cease firing. Soon after the flag of truce returned the enemy again advanced, this time in heavy force led by Brig. Gen. A. P. Thompson. They filled all the houses in reach of the fort, and opened a heavy fire from behind every obstacle that would afford them protection. While the battle was raging General Thompson was struck by a shell and instantly killed; two of his staff also fell dead near the spot where he lay. From the time they began to move into the houses until they were repulsed the fire of small-arms was almost incessant. Toward the last the firing was scattering, I having ordered my men not to fire without they could see the enemy. A feint, as though they would renew the assault, was made, but they fell back and did not renew it, and by 6 o'clock none of the enemy were in sight. Thus, after near three hours of hard fighting, the enemy was completely repulsed, leaving on the field 1 of their best generals, 1 captain, and 1 lieutenant, all

killed. As they moved all the wounded and most of the dead, it was impossible for me to ascertain what was their loss in my immediate front. As several wagons were employed for near half an hour removing them, I concluded their loss was very heavy. Fifteen dead bodies were left on the ground near the fort.

In behalf of my officers and men the highest praise is due. Not one but did his duty nobly. To particularize would be to name each officer and man. Never did men behave better or maneuver with better judgment.

My command consisted of Company C, Capt. L. King, 45 men; Company H, Capt. Ben. Leigh, 40 men; Company K, Capt. Josiah Borough, 35 men; aggregate, 120.*

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. F. CHAPMAN,
*Major, Commanding Detachment 122d Illinois Volunteers.*

Col. S. G. HICKS,
*Commanding Post.*

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No. 8.

*Reports of Col. William H. Lawrence, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry, of affairs at Columbus, etc.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST,
*Columbus, Ky., April* 11, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that at 1 p. m. this day my pickets were driven in by about 50 of the enemy's cavalry, capturing 1 corporal of the Thirty-fourth New Jersey Volunteers and wounding 1 of the Third U. S. Colored Troops. I immediately sent out my mounted infantry and drove them 7 miles, wounding 1 and capturing his arms.

Reports from refugees have been very numerous to-day. The enemy are reported in squads of 50 and 60 all through the country. A scout of 7 of Colonel Bell's command came into Hickman last night, and reported Bell, 700 strong, marching on the town.

It is reported to-day by 2 or 3 refugees, who have every appearance of truth, that Forrest has 16 pieces of artillery; that he has been heavily re-enforced; that he ordered his artillery from Jackson to Trenton last Thursday; that at Trenton he has large supplies, and has stated he will try Columbus and Paducah, as he is not satisfied with his reception there. I think there is some truth in these reports, owing to the large number of small parties about the country. The gun-boat left here day before yesterday without reporting. I would respectfully ask that a gun-boat be dispatched here without delay.

It is impossible for us to repair the telegraph, as the enemy have some 200 or 300 at Blandville. If you have any spare troops I should like to have them, as I feel that I might be attacked at any hour, and Major De Buol, having inspected Fort Halleck, reports that there is but one serviceable gun in the fort. The trench is also

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*Nominal list of casualties accompanying this report shows 5 men wounded.

in a very bad condition. The general commanding may rely upon my not being taken by surprise, and nothing that I can do shall be left undone.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. HUDSON LAWRENCE,
*Colonel 34th New Jersey Volunteers, Commanding Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

From scouts just in the enemy in squads of 200 or 300 are reported in every direction.

W. H. L.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST,
*Columbus, Ky., April* 13, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I inclose copy of a communication received this morning at 6 o'clock and my reply to the same. This was brought in by a flag of truce. The only information I could obtain was that they had a division under Buford, principally of mounted infantry.

The steamer L. M. Kennett happened to be here with a battery of 24-pounders and the detachment of Colonel Rinaker's regiment, and some 100 men in squads. I have detained the steamer. The steamer Maria Denning is only a few hours behind with 1,500 troops. The gun-boat has gone down the river and not yet returned.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. HUDSON LAWRENCE,
*Colonel Thirty-fourth New Jersey Volunteers.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS CONFEDERATE FORCES,
*Before Columbus, Ky., April* 13, 1864.

*The Commanding Officer U. S. Forces, Columbus, Ky.:*

Fully capable of taking Columbus and its garrison by force, I desire to avoid the shedding of blood and therefore demand the unconditional surrender of the forces under your command. Should you surrender, the negroes now in arms will be returned to their masters. Should I, however, be compelled to take the place, no quarter will be shown to the negro troops whatever; the white troops will be treated as prisoners of war.

I am, sir, yours,

A. BUFORD,
*Brigadier-General.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST,
*Columbus, Ky., April* 13, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BUFORD,
*Commanding Confederate Forces before Columbus, Ky.:*

GENERAL: Your communication of this date is to hand. In reply I would state that, being placed by my Government with adequate force to hold and repel all enemies from my post, surrender is out of the question.

I am, general, very respectfully,

WM. HUDSON LAWRENCE,
*Colonel 34th New Jersey Volunteers, Commanding Post.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST,
*Columbus, Ky., April* 20, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report for the information of the general commanding that Brig. Gen. George F. Shepley arrived here on the morning of the 13th instant, on the steamer Olive Branch. He informed me that as they passed Fort Pillow he saw a flag of truce, and was informed that there had been severe fighting going on. As the steamer passed the fort firing began, and he saw the American flag hauled down, or the halyards shot away, he could not tell which. Afterward saw a flag he could not make out, but not higher than a regimental flag. He then went on to say that he believed the fort had surrendered, and was at this time expecting an attack upon my post, and General Shepley offered me two batteries of light artillery, which he said were fully manned and equipped. I am informed there were some 200 infantry on board the steamer in addition to the artillery.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. HUDSON LAWRENCE,
*Colonel, Commanding Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 9.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Memphis, Tenn., April* 15, 1864.

GENERAL: Fort Pillow, garrisoned by four companies Alabama Siege Artillery, under Major Booth, and about 250 recruits for Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, under Major Bradford, was attacked by a heavy body of the enemy, commanded by Major-General Forrest in person, on the morning of the 12th instant.

A surrender was demanded and refused and the fort was held until about 3 p. m., at which time the enemy in overwhelming numbers carried the fortifications by assault. Resistance was gallantly made until the last moment, notwithstanding the loss of Major Booth, the brave commander, at an early period of the engagement. After resistance had ceased the enemy, in gross violation of all honorable warfare, butchered in cold blood the prisoners and wounded.

For the proof of these charges I refer you to the official report of Acting Master W. Ferguson, U. S. Navy, and of Lieutenant Van Horn, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored troops), late First Alabama Siege.

The list* of killed and wounded, so far as received, accompanies this report, and demonstrates the severity of the action. It is unquestionably true that the colored troops fought desperately and nearly all of them are now killed or wounded; but few are held as prisoners.

The armament of the fort: Two 10-pounder Parrotts, two 6-pounder field guns, two 12-pounder howitzers, with about 100 rounds to the piece, were captured in good order by the enemy, and are now held by them.

*See Van Horn's and Ferguson's reports, pp. 569 and 571.

I received notice of the attack about 7 p. m. of the 12th, and immediately ordered the Fifty-fifth U. S. Infantry, colored troops, to embark on the Glendale; but within an hour after issuing the order authentic intelligence of the capture of the fort and garrison and of the force of the enemy was received, and the order countermanded.

I am this day informed that the rebels have abandoned the neighborhood of Fort Pillow, and I therefore allow the boats which have accumulated here to pass up the river. I cannot conclude this report without very earnestly calling the attention of the War Department through you to the necessity of some vigorous action on their part to insure the treatment due to soldiers to our colored troops. Not only is it due to our good name, but it will be necessary to preserve discipline among them. In case of an action in which they shall be successfully engaged, it will be nearly impracticable to restrain them from retaliation.

Among the officers killed in this engagement I was personally acquainted only with Maj. L. F. Booth, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, colored. He was a good soldier and brave officer, and fell honorably in the gallant discharge of duty.

I have the honor to be, general, your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
*Major-General.*

Maj. Gen. J. B. MCPHERSON,
*Commanding Department of the Tennessee.*

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. DEPT. AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Huntsville, Ala., April* 24, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi, and attention of the commanding-general called to the barbarous outrages committed upon the troops at Fort Pillow. The case demands the serious consideration of the Government.

JAS. B. MCPHERSON,
*Major-General.*

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MEMPHIS, *April* 15, 1864.

GENERAL: Fort Pillow was captured after a desperate resistance by assault on the 12th.

We have lost over 250 in killed and wounded. The rebels butchered the negro troops after resistance ceased. Six guns—two 10-pounder Parrotts, two 6-pounders, two 12-pounder howitzers, were captured. The fort is now reported abandoned by them. Our garrison was four companies, William D. Turner's artillery (colored), and 250 recruits (Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry); in all, about 550 men, which was a sufficient force for the fort.

Forrest has moved east and north. Lee is reported moving from Grenada to Columbus on account, it is said, of a movement on Tuscaloosa. Loring is on the line of the Tombigbee, moving north.

I have ordered up the four regiments of the Third Division of the Seventeenth Corps, now in Vicksburg, as soon as practicable, that I may have some movable troops. The veteran cavalry is detained at Saint Louis for want of horses. The enrolled militia is rapidly improving, and I think will fight if needed in the city.

S. A. HURLBUT,
*Major-General.*

Major-General SHERMAN.

No. 10.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Thomas H. Harris, Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, of the garrison at Fort Pillow, etc.**

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Memphis, Tenn., April 26, 1864.*

SIR: I wish to state that one section of Company D, Second U. S. Light Artillery (colored), 1 commissioned officer and 40 men, were sent to Fort Pillow about February 15, as part of the garrison.

The garrison at Fort Pillow, by last reports received, consisted of the First Battalion, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), 8 commissioned officers and 213 enlisted men; one section Company D, Second U. S. Light Artillery (colored), 1 commissioned officer and 40 men; First Battalion, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, Maj. W. F. Bradford, 10 commissioned officers and 285 enlisted men. Total white troops, 295; total colored troops, 262; grand total, 557. Six field pieces—two 6-pounders, two 12-pounder howitzers, and two 10-pounder Parrotts.

T. H. HARRIS,
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Memphis, Tenn., March 28, 1864.*

Maj. L. F. BOOTH,
*Comdg. First Battalion, First Alabama Siege Artillery:*

SIR: You will proceed with your own battalion to Fort Pillow and establish your force in garrison of the works there. As you will be, if I am correct in my memory, the senior officer at that post, you will take command, conferring, however, freely and fully with Major Bradford, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, whom you will find a good officer, though not of much experience.

There are two points of land fortified at Fort Pillow, one of which only is now held by our troops. You will occupy both, either with your own troops alone or holding one with yours and giving the other in charge to Major Bradford. The positions are commanding, and can be held by a small force against almost any odds.

I shall send you at this time two 12-pounder howitzers, as I hope it will not be necessary to mount heavy guns. You will, however, immediately examine the ground and the works, and if, in your opinion, 20-pounder Parrotts can be advantageously used, I will order them to you. My own opinion is that there is not range enough. Major Bradford is well acquainted with the country, and should keep scouts well out, and forward all information received direct to me.

I think Forrest's check at Paducah will not dispose him to try the river again, but that he will fall back to Jackson and thence cross the Tennessee; as soon as this is ascertained I shall withdraw your garrison. Nevertheless, act promptly in putting the works into perfect order and the post into its strongest defense. Allow as little intercourse as possible with the country, and cause all supplies which

*Copies of this report and the following papers, marked as inclosures Nos. 1, 2, and 3, were forwarded to the War Department by Lieutenant-Colonel Harris.

go out to be examined with great strictness. No man whose loyalty is questionable should be allowed to come in or go out while the enemy is in West Tennessee.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS FORT PILLOW,
*Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 3, 1864.*

Major-General HURLBUT:

GENERAL:

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Everything seems to be very quiet within a radius of from 30 to 40 miles around, and I do not think any apprehensions need be felt or fears entertained in reference to this place being attacked or even threatened. I think it perfectly safe.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. BOOTH,
*Major Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), Comdg. Fort.*

[Inclosure No. 3.]

W. R. McLagan, a citizen of the United States, being first duly sworn, states upon oath that for the last two years he has been trading between Saint Louis, Mo., and Covington, Tenn.; that at the time of the attack upon Fort Pillow, April 12, 1864, he was at Covington, Tenn., and was taken by General Forrest as a conscript on the 13th of April, with about 30 other citizens; that on the evening of the 12th of April Major Bradford, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, U. S. forces, arrived at Covington under guard as a prisoner of war, and was reported as such to Colonel Duckworth, commanding Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, Confederate forces; that on the 13th of April Major Bradford and the conscripts, including the affiant, were placed in charge of two companies of the Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, Captains Russell and Lawler commanding. They were taken to Brownsville, Tenn., and started from there to Jackson, Tenn.

When they had proceeded about 5 miles from Brownsville a halt was made, and Major Bradford was taken about 50 yards from the command by a guard of 5 Confederate soldiers in charge of a lieutenant, and was there deliberately shot, 3 of the Confederate soldiers discharging their fire-arms, all of which took effect, killing him instantly. This was on the 14th day of April, 1864, near dusk; that the body of Major Bradford was left unburied in the woods about 50 yards from the road.

The affiant, with the other conscripts, was taken on to Jackson, and on the 22d day of April the affiant and 25 others of the conscripts made their escape from the Confederate forces at Jackson. On the way back he saw the body of Major Bradford lying in the same place where he was shot. This was on Saturday night, the 23d of April. Major Bradford, before he was shot, fell on his knees and said that he had fought them manfully, and wished to be treated as a prisoner of war.

W. R. McLAGAN.

HEADQUATERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., April* 25, 1864.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day.

T. H. HARRIS,
*Lieut. Col. and Asst. Adjt. Gen., Sixteenth Army Corps.*

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No. 11.

*Report of Capt. John G. Woodruff, One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

CAIRO, ILL.,
*April* 15, 1864.

GENERAL: In compliance with your request last evening, I make the following report concerning the capture of Fort Pillow:

Arrived in sight of Fort Pillow on Wednesday, the 13th, about 9 a. m., at which time the gun-boat No. 28, which escorted us up, opened fire on the fort. After firing about 10 shots a flag of truce appeared at the fort, when she ran in and signaled for the Platte Valley (our boat) to turn back, which we did (we having run by the fort without molestation). I went on shore, and while our men were engaged carrying the wounded on board the boat I with other officers, on invitation from General Chalmers, visited the fort. We saw the dead bodies of 15 negroes, most of them having been shot through the head. Some of them were burned as if by powder around the holes in their heads, which led me to conclude that they were shot at very close range.

One of the gun-boat officers who accompanied us asked General Chalmers if the most of the negroes were not killed after they (the enemy) had taken possession. Chalmers replied that he thought they had been, and that the men of General Forrest's command had such a hatred toward the armed negro that they could not be restrained from killing the negroes after they had captured them. He said they were not killed by General Forrest's or his orders, but that both Forrest and he stopped the massacre as soon as they were able to do so. He said it was nothing better than we could expect so long as we persisted in arming the negro.

Chalmers said that all of his forces would be out of the place by 3 o'clock of that day, and that the main body was already moving. He also said to the officers, myself included, that Forrest's command would never fire on transport steamers. Chalmers told me they took about 25 negroes as prisoners. We saw two bodies of negroes burning.

The above is all I know of the affair which is of importance.

I have the honor to be, general, your obedient servant,

JOHN G. WOODRUFF,
*Captain Company G, 113th Illinois Infantry.*

Brigadier-General BRAYMAN,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Cairo, Ill.*

No. 12.

*Report of Lieut. Mack J. Leaming, Adjutant Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, STATE OF TENNESSEE,
*Nashville, Tenn., January* 17, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 31st ultimo, and, in accordance with the direction therein contained, to make the following report of the battle of Fort Pillow:

On the 12th day of April, 1864, the Federal forces stationed at Fort Pillow, Tenn., consisted of one battalion of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored troops), one battery Second U. S. Light Artillery (colored troops), and the Thirteenth Regiment West Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, which was then recruiting, having four companies mustered into the U. S. service and the fifth company ready for muster. The men composing this company had been enlisted by Capt. John L. Poston, and repeated applications had been made to have them mustered into the U. S. service, but no mustering officer could be sent for that purpose. Our entire garrison numbered some 550 effective men, with six pieces of artillery, the whole under command of Maj. L. F. Booth, of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored troops). In addition to this force the U. S. gun-boat New Era, Captain Marshall, was stationed off Fort Pillow and participated in the engagement, but owing to the high bluffs, and in consequence of the long range she was obliged to take with her guns but little assistance was rendered the garrison from this quarter.

At 5.30 o'clock on the morning of the 12th of April, 1864, our pickets were attacked and driven in by the advance of the enemy, under command of General Forrest. Our garrison immediately opened fire on the advancing rebels from our artillery at the fort, while Companies D and E, of the Thirteenth West Tennessee Cavalry, were deployed as skirmishers, which duty they performed until about 8 a. m., when they were compelled to retire to the fort after considerable loss, in which Lieutenant Barr, of Company D, was killed.

The firing continued without cessation, principally from behind logs, stumps, and under cover of thick underbrush and from high knolls, until about 9 a. m., when the rebels made a general assault on our works, which was successfully repulsed with severe loss to them and but slight loss to our garrison. We, however, suffered pretty severely in the loss of commissioned officers by the unerring aim of the rebel sharpshooters, and among this loss I have to record the name of our post commander, Maj. L. F. Booth, who was killed almost instantly by a musket-ball through the breast.

Maj. W. F. Bradford, of the Thirteenth West Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, being the next ranking officer, then assumed command of the garrison and directed the remainder of our operations.

At about 11 a. m. the rebels made a second determined assault on our works. In this attempt they were again successfully repulsed with severe loss. The enemy succeeded, however, in obtaining possession of two rows of barracks running parallel to the south side of the fort and distant about 150 yards. The barracks had previously been ordered to be destroyed, but after severe loss on our part in the attempt to execute the order our men were compelled to retire with-

out accomplishing the desired end, save only to the row nearest to the fort. From these barracks the enemy kept up a murderous fire on our men, despite all our efforts to dislodge him.

Owing to the close proximity of these buildings to the fort, and to the fact that they were on considerably lower ground, our artillery could not be sufficiently depressed to destroy them, or even render them untenable for the enemy. Musketry and artillery firing continued, however, on both sides with great energy, and although our garrison was almost completely surrounded, all attempts of the enemy to carry our works by assault were successfully repulsed, notwithstanding his great superiority in numbers.

At 3.30 p. m. firing suddenly ceased in consequence of the appearance of a white flag displayed by the enemy. The party bearing the flag was halted about 150 yards from the fort, when we were informed by one of the party that they had a communication from General Forrest to the commanding officer of the U. S. forces at Fort Pillow. I was ordered out, accompanied by Captains Bradford and Young, to receive this communication, which I took back to the fort while the party bearing the same remained for an answer. As nearly as I can remember the communication was as follows:

HEADQUARTERS CONFEDERATE CAVALRY,
*Near Fort Pillow, Tenn., April* 12, 1864.

Maj. L. F. BOOTH,
*Commanding U. S. Forces at Fort Pillow:*

MAJOR: Your gallant defense of Fort Pillow has entitled you to the treatment of brave men. I now demand the unconditional surrender of your forces, at the same time assuring you that you will be treated as prisoners of war. I have received a new supply of ammunition and can take your works by assault, and if compelled to do so you must take the consequences.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding Confederate Cavalry.*

To this communication I was ordered to make the following reply, which I placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to Major-General Forrest, and delivered to the party in waiting:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Fort Pillow, Tenn., April* 12, 1864.

Maj. Gen. N. B. FORREST,
*Commanding Confederate Cavalry:*

GENERAL: Yours of this instant is received, and in reply I have to ask one hour for consultation and consideration with my officers and the officers of the gun-boat.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. BOOTH,
*Major, Commanding U. S. Forces.*

Desiring to conceal from the enemy the fact of the death of Major Booth and cause him to believe that he was still in command, it was deemed not only proper but advisable that I append his name to the communication.

I again repaired to the fort, where I had been but a few minutes when the party bearing the white flag again made its appearance with a second communication, and I was again sent out to meet the same. This time, just as an officer was in the act of handing me the communication, another officer galloped up and said, "That gives you twenty minutes to surrender; I am General Forrest." This I

took back to the fort, the party remaining as before for an answer. It read as follows :

HEADQUARTERS CONFEDERATE CAVALRY,
*Near Fort Pillow, April* 12, 1864.

Maj. L. F. BOOTH,
*Commanding U. S. Forces at Fort Pillow:*

MAJOR : I do not demand the surrender of the gun-boat ; twenty minutes will be given you to take your men outside the fort and surrender. If in that time this demand is not complied with I will immediately proceed to assault your works, and you must take the consequences.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, C. S. Army.*

After a short consultation with the officers of the garrison, it was unanimously voted not to surrender. In accordance with this decision I was ordered to write and deliver to the party in waiting the following communication :

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Fort Pillow, Tenn., April* 12, 1864.

Maj. Gen. N. B. FORREST,
*Commanding Confederate Cavalry:*

GENERAL : I will not surrender.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. BOOTH,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Fort Pillow.*

This I delivered to General Forrest in person, who broke open the envelope in my presence, and after a hasty perusal of its contents refolded it, when we simply saluted and each went our way.

During the cessation of firing on both sides, in consequence of the flag of truce offered by the enemy, and while the attention of both officers and men was naturally directed to the south side of the fort where the communications were being received and answered, Forrest had resorted to means the most foul and infamous ever adopted in the most barbarous ages of the world for the accomplishment of his design. Here he took occasion to move his troops, partially under cover of a ravine and thick underbrush, into the very position he had been fighting to obtain throughout the entire engagement, up to 3.30 p. m. Consequently, when the final decision of the garrison had been made known, the rebel charge was immediately sounded ; when, as if rising from out the very earth on the center and north side, within 20 yards of our works, the rebels received our first fire, wavered, rallied again and finally succeeded in breaking our lines, and in thus gaining possession of the fort. At this juncture, one company of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, colored troops, rushed down the bluff, at the summit of which were our works, and many of them jumped into the river, throwing away their arms as they fled.

Seeing that through a gross violation of the rules of civilized warfare the enemy had now gained possession of our works, and in consequence that it would be useless to offer further resistance, our men threw down their arms and surrendered. For a moment the fire seemed to slacken. The scene which followed, however, beggars all description. The enemy carried our works at about 4 p. m., and from that time until dark, and at intervals throughout the night, our men were shot down without mercy and almost without regard to

color. This horrid work of butchery did not cease even with the night of murder, but was renewed again the next morning, when numbers of our wounded were basely murdered after a long night of pain and suffering on the field where they had fought so bravely. Of this display of Southern chivalry, of this wholesale butchery of brave men, white as well as black, after they had surrendered, and of the innumerable barbarities committed by the rebels on our sick in hospitals and the bodies of our dead, I do not deem it necessary further to speak, inasmuch as the Committee on the Conduct of the War has made a full and accurate report of the same, in which the barbarities practiced by the rebels at Fort Pillow are shown to have been horrid in the extreme, and fully confirming even the most seemingly exaggerated statements.

The fate of Maj. William F. Bradford, for a while involved in some degree of doubt and obscurity, seems now to be clearly established. Subsequent events show beyond a reasonable doubt that he was brutally murdered the first night of his capture.

Of the commissioned officers of the Thirteenth West Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry (now the Fourteenth Regiment), all were killed save First Lieut. Nicholas D. Logan, of C Company, who died in prison at Macon, Ga., on 9th June, 1864, and myself, the adjutant of the regiment.

The rebels were very bitter against these loyal Tennesseeans, terming them "home-made Yankees," and declaring they would give them no better treatment than they dealt out to the negro troops with whom they were fighting.

At about 10 a. m. the day following the capture of the fort, while the U. S. gun-boat No. 28 from Memphis was shelling the enemy, who, at the same time was engaged in murdering our wounded, Forrest sent a flag of truce to the commander granting him from that time until 5 p. m. to bury our dead and remove the few surviving wounded, he having no means of attending to them. This proposition was accepted, and under it myself with some 59 others, all that were left of the wounded, were carried on board the transport Platte Valley and taken to Mound City, Ill., where we received good care and medical treatment in the U. S. general hospital at that place. But one commissioned officer of the garrison besides myself lived to get there, and he (Lieutenant Porter) died soon afterward from the effect of his wound.

Of the number, white and black, actually murdered after the surrender I cannot say positively; however, from my own observation, as well as from prisoners who were captured at Fort Pillow and afterward made their escape, I cannot estimate that number at anything less than 300.

From what I could learn at the time of the fight, as well as from escaped prisoners since then, relative to the Confederate loss in the attack and capture of Fort Pillow, I am confident that 500 men in killed and wounded would not be an overestimate. The Confederate forces engaged, as nearly as I could ascertain, numbered some 7,000 men, under command of Generals Forrest, Chalmers, and McCulloch.

The bravery of our troops in the defense of Fort Pillow, I think, cannot be questioned. Many of the men, and particularly the colored soldiers, had never before been under fire; yet every man did his duty with a courage and determined resolution, seldom if ever surpassed in similar engagements. Had Forrest not violated the rules of civilized warfare in taking advantage of the flag of truce in

the manner I have mentioned in another part of this report, I am confident we could have held the fort against all his assaults during the day, when, if we had been properly supported during the night by the major-general commanding at Memphis, a glorious victory to the Union cause would have been the result of the next day's operations.

In conclusion, it may not be altogether improper to state that I was one of the number wounded, at first considered mortally, after the surrender; and but for the aid soon afterward extended to me by a Confederate captain, who was a member of an order to which I belong (Free Masonry), I would in all probability have shared the fate of many of my comrades who were murdered after having been wounded. This captain had me carried into a small shanty, where he gave me some brandy and water. He was soon ordered to his company, and I was carried by the rebels into the barracks which they had occupied during the most of the engagement. Here had been collected a great number of our wounded, some of whom had already died. Early the next morning these barracks were set on fire by order of a rebel officer, who had been informed that they contained Federal wounded. I was rendered entirely helpless from the nature of my wound, the ball having entered my right side, and ranging downward, grazed my lung, and deeply imbedded itself in my hip (where it still remains) out of easy reach of surgical instruments. In this condition I had almost given up every hope of being saved from a horrible death, when one of my own men, who was less severely wounded than myself, succeeded in drawing me out of the building, which the flames were then rapidly consuming.

As to the course our Government should pursue in regard to the outrages perpetrated by the rebels on this as well as on a number of occasions during the existing rebellion, I have only to express my belief that some sort of retaliation should be adopted as the surest method of preventing a recurrence of the fiendish barbarities practiced on the defenders of our flag at Fort Pillow.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MACK J. LEAMING,
*Lieut. and Adjt. 14th Tennessee Vol. Cav., late 13th Regt.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
*Secretary of War.*

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No. 13.

*Report of Lieuts. Francis A. Smith and William Cleary, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

CAIRO, ILL.,
*April* 18, 1864.

GENERAL: We have the honor of reporting to you, as the only survivors of the commissioned officers of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, that on the morning of the 12th day of the present month, at about the hour of daylight, the rebels, numbering from 5,000 to 7,000, attacked our garrison at Fort Pillow, Tenn., numbering as it did only about 500 effective men,

They at first sent in a flag of truce demanding a surrender, which Major Booth, then commanding the post (Major Booth of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, colored), refused. Shortly after this Major Booth was shot through the heart and fell dead.

Maj. William F. Bradford, then commanding the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, assumed command of the fort, and under his orders a continual fire was kept up until about 1 p. m., when our cannon and the rifles of the sharpshooters were mowing the rebels down in such numbers that they could not make an advance. The rebels then hoisted a second flag of truce and sent it in, demanding an unconditional surrender. They also threatened that if the place was not surrendered no quarter would be shown. Major Bradford refused to accept any such terms; would not surrender, and sent back word that if such were their intentions they could try it on. While this flag of truce was being sent in the rebel officers formed their forces in whatever advantageous positions they were able to select. They then formed a hollow square around our garrison, placed their sharpshooters within our deserted barracks, and directed a galling fire upon our men. They also had one brigade in the trenches just outside the fort, which had been cut by our men only a few days before, and which provided them with as good protection as that held by the garrison in the fort.

Their demand of the flag of truce having been refused, the order was given by General Forrest in person to charge upon the works and show no quarter. Half an hour after the issuance of this order a scene of terror and massacre ensued. The rebels came pouring in solid masses right over the breast-works. Their numbers were perfectly overwhelming. The moment they reached the top of the walls and commenced firing as they descended, the colored troops were panic-stricken, threw down their arms, and ran down the bluff, pursued sharply, begging for life, but escape was impossible. The Confederates had apprehended such a result, and had placed a regiment of cavalry where it could cut off all effective retreat. This cavalry regiment employed themselves in shooting down the negro troops as fast as they made their appearance.

The whites, as soon as they perceived they were also to be butchered inside the fort, also ran down. They had previously thrown down their arms and submitted. In many instances the men begged for life at the hands of the enemy, even on their knees. They were only made to stand upon their feet, and then summarily shot down.

Capt. Theodore F. Bradford, of Company A, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, was signal officer for the gun-boat, and was seen by General Forrest with the signal flags. The general in person ordered Captain Bradford to be shot. He was instantly riddled with bullets, nearly a full regiment having fired their pieces upon him. Lieutenant Wilson, of Company A, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, was killed after he had surrendered, he having been previously wounded. Lieut. J. C. Ackerstrom, Company E, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, and acting regimental quartermaster, was severely wounded after he had surrendered, and then nailed to the side of the house and the house set on fire, burning him to death. Lieut. Cord Revelle, Company E, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, was shot and killed after surrender.

Maj. William F. Bradford, commanding our forces, was fired upon after he had surrendered the garrison. The rebels told him he could not surrender. He ran into the river and swam out some 50 yards,

they all the time firing at him but failing to hit him. He was hailed by an officer and told to return to the shore. He did so, but as he neared the shore the riflemen discharged their pieces at him again. Again they missed. He ran up the hill-side among the enemy with a white handkerchief in his hand in token of his surrender, but still they continued to fire upon him. There were several Confederate officers standing near at the time. None of them would order the firing to cease, but when they found they could not hit him they allowed him to give himself up as a prisoner and paroled him to the limits of the camp. They now claim that he violated his parole the same night and escaped. We have heard from prisoners who got away from the rebels that they took Major Bradford out in the Hatchie Bottom and there dispatched him. We feel confident that the story is true.

We saw several negroes burning up in their quarters on Wednesday morning. We also saw the rebels come back that morning and shoot at the wounded. We also saw them at a distance running about, hunting up wounded, that they might shoot them. There were some whites also burning. The rebels also went to the negro hospital, where about 30 sick were kept, and butchered them with their sabers, hacking their heads open in many instances, and then set fire to the buildings. They killed every negro soldier Wednesday morning upon whom they came. Those who were able they made stand up to be shot. In one case a white soldier was found wounded. He had been lying upon the ground nearly twenty-four hours, without food or drink. He asked a rebel soldier to give him something to drink. The latter turned about upon his heel and fired three deliberate shots at him, saying, "Take that, you negro equality." The poor fellow is alive yet, and in the hospital. He can tell the tale for himself. They ran a great many into the river, and shot them or drowned them there. They immediately killed all the officers who were over the negro troops, excepting one, who has since died from his wounds. They took out from Fort Pillow about one hundred and some odd prisoners (white) and 40 negroes. They hung and shot the negroes as they passed along toward Brownsville until they were rid of them all. Out of the 600 troops, convalescents included, which were at the fort, they have only about 100 prisoners, all whites, and we have about 50 wounded, who are paroled.

Major Anderson, Forrest's assistant adjutant-general, stated that they did not consider colored men as soldiers, but as property, and as such, being used by our people, they had destroyed them. This was concurred in by Forrest, Chalmers, and McCulloch, and other officers.

We respectfully refer you to the accompanying affidavit of Hardy N. Revelle, lettered A, and those of Mrs. Rufins, lettered B, and Mrs. Williams, lettered C.*

Respectfully summitted.

F. A. SMITH,
*First Lieutenant Company D, 13th Tennessee Cavalry.*
WILLIAM CLEARY,
*Second Lieut. Company B, 13th Tennessee Vol. Cavalry.*

General M. BRAYMAN.

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*See pp. 528, 530, and 533, respectively.

No. 14.

*Reports of Capt. Carl A. Lamberg, Battery D, Second U. S. Colored Light Artillery, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

NEAR MEMPHIS, TENN.,
*April* 20, 1864.

COLONEL: Not having as yet any statements and facts which would enable me to make an official report, but considering the interest you have always shown for my battery, it becomes my duty to write you this letter and give a statement of what I have heard about the section of the battery which was on detached service at Fort Pillow, Tenn., and took part in the fight of the 12th instant:

Private John Kennedy, of said section, returned here wounded last Thursday. He informs me that the garrison fought well, repulsed two attacks, and were in good spirits and hopes that they would be able to hold the fort against the overwhelming forces against them. He says it was considered among our men that if the troops had remained in the rifle-pits (from where they were drawn to the inner fort after Major Booth was killed) they may have held their ground and defeated the enemy.

During the last attack, when the rebels entered the works, I heard Major Bradford give the command, "Boys, save your lives." He heard Lieutenant Bischoff, of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored troops), object to this, saying to Major Bradford: "Do not let the men leave their pieces; let us fight yet;" but the major, turning around and seeing the rebels coming in from all sides, said, "It is of no use any more;" whereupon the men left their pieces and tried to escape in different directions and manners. He himself ran down to the creek, but within 2 feet of the same he was shot through both legs and fell down. He saw Lieutenant Hunter (commanding officer of the section of my battery), with several others, jump in the river, the rebels firing at them, but he does not know with what effect, for at the same moment he was taken by the rebels, who searched him, turning his pockets inside out, requesting him to give up his greenbacks, &c. He saw some rebels go in a tent where Sergeant Mills and Privates Lewis Ingraham, Peter Lake, and Anderson Smith, all of my battery, were lying on their beds wounded and kill them, shooting them through their heads and bodies, notwithstanding their cries for mercy. He then was forced to give up his jacket and put on a rebel coat, whereupon he was brought to a place about a mile in the rear of the fort and put under guard, together with, as he believes, 50 other prisoners, black and white. He saw among them Lieutenant Bischoff, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), and First Sergt. J. D. Fox, with 5 men of my battery. He, unable to move around on account of his wound, was tied up to a tree and lashed with a gun-sling. He saw the rebels kill several (to him unknown) colored soldiers after the surrender. Some of them were shot, others knocked on their heads with muskets until they died. Some few of the rebel officers and men objected to these cruelties and outrages, but could not prevent it. He says he saw several wounded, but does not know more than one of my men killed during the fight. Mr. A. Alexander, a citizen of Memphis and sutler in my battery, was bravely fighting the rebels notwithstanding his age (over 50 years). He is reported to have been killed during the fight and

afterward seen dead, still holding in his hand the musket he used so well. He leaves a destitute widow with two small children. He was a poor, but honest man.

The above are the main points of Private John Kennedy's report, who was prisoner with the rebels to the forenoon of the 15th instant, when he managed to escape.

I have the honor to be, colonel, your most obedient servant,

CARL ADOLF LAMBERG,

*Capt. Second U. S. Light Arty.* (*colored*), *Comdg. Batty. D.*

Col. I. G. KAPPNER.

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HDQRS. BATTY. D, 2D U. S. LIGHT ARTILLERY (COLORED),
*Near Memphis, Tenn., April 27*, 1864.

COLONEL: I hereby have the honor to submit the following report with regard to the section of my battery which was on detached service at Fort Pillow, Tenn., and took part in the action at said place on the 12th instant:

The most reliable information I have been able to gain is the report of John Kennedy, a private of my battery, who returned, wounded, to this place two days after the engagement.

The section consisted of 1 commissioned officer and 34 enlisted men. Only 2 enlisted men have as yet returned to this place.

Private Kennedy informs me that the garrison fought well, repulsed two attacks, and were in good hopes to be able to hold the fort. The fight continued for eight hours. He saw 6 men killed of my battery, 5 of whom were killed after the surrender, having been previously wounded during the action, and lying in their tents. He heard them ask for mercy, but the rebels did not listen to them but shot some of them through their heads and bodies, knocking others to death with their muskets. He saw a black woman, who was wounded during the action, shot through the head and killed by one of the rebels. During the last attack, when the rebels were climbing the works and entering the fort, he heard Major Bradford give the command, "Boys, save your lives." To this he heard Lieutenant Bischoff, of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), object, saying to the major to order the men to remain at their guns and continue to fight the enemy, but the major, turning around and seeing the enemy coming in from all sides in overwhelming numbers, replied that it was useless. Kennedy then, together with some others, ran for the river, but within 2 feet of the same he was shot through both legs and fell down. He saw Lieut. A. M. Hunter, the commanding officer of the section, with others, in the river; he saw the rebels fire at them, but he does not know with what effect, for he was captured at same moment and dragged away. The rebels turned his pockets inside out, and robbed him of what little valuables he had. He was then brought to the rear about a mile from the fort and kept there over night, together with some other prisoners, about 50, as he believes, black and white. Unable to move on account of his wound, he was tied to a tree and lashed with a gun-sling. He saw 3 colored soldiers butchered to death by the rebels. They were knocked on their heads with muskets until they expired. He saw some few rebels, officers and privates, who tried to prevent these outrages. He saw only one officer whom he knew among the prisoners, Lieutenant Bischoff, of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (col-

ored). He states that after Major Booth was killed the troops were drawn from the rifle-pits to the inner works by Major Bradford, and that the thought was prevailing among the prisoners that if they had remained at the rifle-pits our troops would have been able to hold the fort. Kennedy was held as a prisoner to the day after the fight, when he managed to escape.

The detached section from my battery consisted of 1 commissioned officer and 34 enlisted men, and the casualties are the following, viz: Killed, enlisted men, 6; wounded, enlisted men, 3, (hospital in Cairo); wounded, enlisted men, 1 (hospital in Memphis); escaped, enlisted men, 1 (with the battery); prisoners, enlisted men, 5; total accounted for, 16. One commissioned officer (First Lieut. A. M. Hunter) and 18 enlisted men missing, with no information about their fate.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

CARL ADOLF LAMBERG,
*Capt. Comdg. Batty. D, 2d U. S. Light Artillery (colored).*

Lieut. Col. T. H. HARRIS,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Sixteenth Army Corps, Memphis, Tenn.*

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No. 15.

*Report of Capt. William T. Smith, Sixth U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

CAMP SIXTH U. S. HEAVY ARTILLERY (COLORED),
*April* 15, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following statement in regard to the battle of Fort Pillow. I was not in the battle, but arrived there after the fort was captured, and by conversation with officers that were engaged in the same and prisoners I learned the following particulars:

On the morning of the 12th of April, at daybreak, the pickets were attacked, and without resistance, which should have been made, hastily returned to the fort. Major Booth, of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), was in command. He had made all disposition that was in his power with the small force that was under his command, and when the enemy charged his rifle-pits they were repulsed, and every time they met with the same; and while Major Booth was passing among his men and cheering the same to fight he was struck in the head by a bullet and killed, after which the command retired inside of the fort, when the enemy sent in a demand for the surrender of the fort immediately, which demand was refused; and while consulting under the flag of truce the enemy advanced his lines by crawling up on our breast-works. After the refusal they charged our works, and again were repulsed. They then sent in another demand for surrender, which again was refused. They then stormed the fort, and succeeded by their treachery in entering the same, and they then commenced an indiscriminate slaughter of the command. The fort never was surrendered. I passed over the field of battle under the flag of truce (which was out to bury our dead), and I there saw men who were shot after they had thrown down their

arms and were in hiding-places that they had selected after the fort was taken. A captain of one of the gun-boats informed me that the rebel General Chalmers told him they did not intend to show any mercy to the garrison of Fort Pillow when they attacked the same. When I went over the field I was under the escort of Colonel Greer, who informed me that it was the hardest battle that he was ever in—the most strongly contested. The appearance of a great many of the dead men's bodies showed to me conclusively that they were murdered.

The following is a list of the killed and wounded, as I have learned from reports: Major Booth, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored), killed; Major Bradford, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, reported murdered; Captain Bradford, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, killed; Captain Carson, Sixth U. S., killed; Lieut. John D. Hill, Sixth U. S., killed; Lieut. P. Bischoff, Sixth U. S., killed; First Sergeant Weaver, Company C, Sixth U. S., killed; Sergeant-Major Hennessey, Sixth U. S., murdered under flag of truce; Capt. Charles J. Epeneter, wounded and prisoner; Lieut. Thomas W. McClure, wounded and prisoner; Lieutenant Lippett, wounded and in our hands; Sergt. Melville Jenks, reported killed.*

I am, very respectfully,

W. T. SMITH,
*Captain Company C, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery.*

Lieut. GEORGE MASON,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 16.

*Report of Lieut. Daniel Van Horn, Sixth U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

HDQRS. SIXTH U. S. HEAVY ARTILLERY (COLORED),
*Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn., April* 14, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the battle and capture of Fort Pillow, Tenn.:

At sunrise on the morning of the 12th of April, 1864, our pickets were attacked and driven in, they making very slight resistance. They were from the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry.

Major Booth, commanding the post, had made all his arrangements for battle that the limited force under his command would allow, and which was only 450 effective men, consisting of the First Battalion of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, five companies of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, and one section of the Second U. S. Light Artillery (colored), Lieutenant Hunter.

Arrangements were scarcely completed and the men placed in the rifle-pits before the enemy came upon us and in ten times our number, as acknowledged by General Chalmers. They were repulsed with heavy loss; charged again and were again repulsed. At the third charge Major Booth was killed, while passing among his men and cheering them to fight.

* Bischoff, Weaver, Hennessey, and Jenks were captured and held as prisoners of war.

The order was then given to retire inside the fort, and General Forrest sent in a flag of truce demanding an unconditional surrender of the fort, which was returned with a decided refusal.

During the time consumed by this consultation advantage was taken by the enemy to place in position his force, they crawling up to the fort.

After the flag had retired, the fight was renewed and raged with fury for some time, when another flag of truce was sent in and another demand for surrender made, they assuring us at the same time that they would treat us as "prisoners of war."

Another refusal was returned, when they again charged the works and succeeded in carrying them. Shortly before this, however, Lieut. John D. Hill, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, was ordered outside the fort to burn some barracks, which he, with the assistance of a citizen who accompanied him, succeeded in effecting, and in returning was killed.

Major Bradford, of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, was now in command. At 4 o'clock the fort was in possession of the enemy, every man having been either killed, wounded, or captured.

There never was a surrender of the fort, both officers and men declaring they never would surrender or ask for quarter.

As for myself, I escaped by putting on citizen's clothes, after I had been some time their prisoner. I received a slight wound of the left ear.

I cannot close this report without adding my testimony to that accorded by others wherever the black man has been brought into battle. Never did men fight better, and when the odds against us are considered it is truly miraculous that we should have held the fort an hour. To the colored troops is due the successful holding out until 4 p. m. The men were constantly at their posts, and in fact through the whole engagement showed a valor not, under the circumstances, to have been expected from troops less than veterans, either white or black.

The following is a list of the casualties among the officers as far as known: Killed, Maj. Lionel F. Booth, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored); Maj. William F. Bradford, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry; Capt. Theodore F. Bradford, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry; Capt. Delos Carson, Company D, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored); Lieut. John D. Hill, Company C, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored); Lieut. Peter Bischoff,* Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored). Wounded, Capt. Charles J. Epeneter, Company A, prisoner; Lieut. Thomas W. McClure, Company C, prisoner; Lieut. Henry Lippett, Company B, escaped, badly wounded; Lieutenant Van Horn, Company D, escaped, slightly wounded.

I know of about 15 men of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored) having escaped, and all but 2 of them are wounded.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c.,

DANIEL VAN HORN,
*2d Lieut. Company D, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).*

Lieut. Col. T. H. HARRIS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*Not killed; was taken prisoner.

No. 17.

*Report of Acting Master William Ferguson, U. S. Navy, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

U. S. STEAMER SILVER CLOUD,
*Off Memphis, Tenn., April* 14, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with your request that I would forward to you a written statement of what I witnessed and learned concerning the treatment of our troops by the rebels at the capture of Fort Pillow by their forces under General Forrest, I have the honor to submit the following report:

Our garrison at Fort Pillow, consisting of some 350 colored troops and 200 of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, refusing to surrender, the place was carried by assault about 3 p. m. of 12th instant.

I arrived off the fort at 6 a. m. on the morning of the 13th instant. Parties of rebel cavalry were picketing on the hills around the fort, and shelling those away I made a landing and took on board some 20 of our troops (some of them badly wounded), who had concealed themselves along the bank and came out when they saw my vessel. While doing so I was fired upon by rebel sharpshooters posted on the hills, and 1 wounded man limping down to the vessel was shot.

About 8 a. m. the enemy sent in a flag of truce with a proposal from General Forrest that he would put me in possession of the fort and the country around until 5 p. m. for the purpose of burying our dead and removing our wounded, whom he had no means of attending to. I agreed to the terms proposed, and hailing the steamer Platte Valley, which vessel I had convoyed up from Memphis, I brought her alongside and had the wounded brought down from the fort and battle-field and placed on board of her. Details of rebel soldiers assisted us in this duty, and some soldiers and citizens on board the Platte Valley volunteered for the same purpose.

We found about 70 wounded men in the fort and around it, and buried, I should think, 150 bodies. All the buildings around the fort and the tents and huts in the fort had been burned by the rebels, and among the embers the charred remains of numbers of our soldiers who had suffered a terrible death in the flames could be seen.

All the wounded who had strength enough to speak agreed that after the fort was taken an indiscriminate slaughter of our troops was carried on by the enemy with a furious and vindictive savageness which was never equaled by the most merciless of the Indian tribes. Around on every side horrible testimony to the truth of this statement could be seen. Bodies with gaping wounds, some bayoneted through the eyes, some with skulls beaten through, others with hideous wounds as if their bowels had been ripped open with bowie-knives, plainly told that but little quarter was shown to our troops. Strewn from the fort to the river bank, in the ravines and hollows, behind logs and under the brush where they had crept for protection from the assassins who pursued them, we found bodies bayoneted, beaten, and shot to death, showing how cold-blooded and persistent was the slaughter of our unfortunate troops.

Of course, when a work is carried by assault there will always be more or less bloodshed, even when all resistance has ceased; but here there were unmistakable evidences of a massacre carried on long after any resistance could have been offered, with a cold-blooded barbarity and perseverance which nothing can palliate.

As near as I can learn, there were about 500 men in the fort when it was stormed. I received about 100 men, including the wounded and those I took on board before the flag of truce was sent in. The rebels, I learned, had few prisoners; so that at least 300 of our troops must have been killed in this affair.

I have the honor to forward a list* of the wounded officers and men received from the enemy under flag of truce.

I am, general, your obedient servant,

W. FERGUSON,

*Acting Master, U. S. Navy, Comdg. U. S. Steamer Silver Cloud.*

Major-General HURLBUT.

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No. 18.

*Report of Brig. Gen. George F. Shepley, U. S. Army, of affairs April 12.*

HEADQUARTERS NORFOLK AND PORTSMOUTH,
*Norfolk, Va., May 7,* 1864.

SIR: At my own request, having been relieved from duty as military governor of Louisiana and ordered to report for duty to the commanding general of the army, I left New Orleans on the evening of the 6th of April as a passenger in the Olive Branch, New Orleans and Saint Louis passenger steamer, not in the service of the Government, but loaded with male and female passengers and cargo of private parties. The steamer was unarmed, and had no troops and no muskets for protection against guerrillas when landing at woodyards and other places.

The boat stopped at Vicksburg, and I went ashore. When I returned to the boat, as she was about leaving, I found that a detachment of a portion of the men of two batteries—one Ohio and one Missouri—belonging to the Seventeenth Army Corps, with the horses, guns, caissons, wagons, tents, and baggage of the two batteries, had been put on board. with orders, as I afterward learned on inquiring, to report to General Brayman at Cairo.

The horses occupied all of the available space, fore and aft, on the sides of the boilers and machinery, which were on deck. The guns, caissons, baggage wagons, tents, garrison and camp equipage were piled up together on the bows, leaving only space for the gang-plank.

The men had no small-arms, so that when the boat landed, as happened in one instance, at a wood-yard where guerrillas had just passed, the pickets thrown out to prevent surprise were necessarily unarmed.

As the boat was approaching, and before it was in sight of Fort Pillow, some females hailed it from the shore, and said the rebels had attacked Fort Pillow and captured two boats on the river, and would take us if we went on.

The captain of the Olive Branch said they had probably taken the Mollie Abel, which was due there about that time from Saint Louis. He turned his boat, saying he would go back to Memphis.

I objected to going back; stopped the boat below the next point; hailed another smaller steamer without passengers, which I saw approaching, and ordered it alongside. I ordered the captain of this

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 4 officers, and 37 white and 16 colored enlisted men.

boat to cast off the coal barges he had in tow, and take me on board with a section of a battery to go to Fort Pillow. While he was trying to disencumber his boat of the coal barges, another boat, better fitted for the purpose (the Cheek), hove in sight. Finding that I could get her ready quicker than the other, I had her brought alongside and went aboard myself with Captain Thornton, of my staff, and Captain Williams, the ranking officer of the batteries. Before we could get the guns on board, a steamer with troops hove in sight coming down the river from Fort Pillow. We could not distinguish at first whether they were Union or rebel soldiers.

I asked Captain Pegram, of the Olive Branch, if the story of the women turned out to be true and the rebels had the steamer, could his boat sink her. Captain Pegram replied: "Yes, my boat can run right over her." I ordered him to swing out into the stream to be ready for her. When she approached we saw U. S. infantry soldiers on board that had just passed the fort. She kept on going rapidly down with the current, only hailing the Olive Branch: "All right up there; you can go by. The gun-boat is lying off the fort." This steamer was the Liberty.

We then proceeded up the river in the Olive Branch. Near Fort Pillow some stragglers or guerrillas fired from the shore with musketry, aiming at the pilot-house.

I was then in the pilot-house, and, as we kept on, I observed that one of the two other boats I have mentioned, which followed us at some distance, was compelled to put back. The Olive Branch kept on to report to the gun-boat on the station.

An officer came off from the gun-boat in a small boat, and said he did not want any boat to stop; ordered us to go on to Cairo, and tell captain (name not recollected) to send him immediately 400 rounds of ammunition. There was no firing at the fort at this time. The Union flag was flying, and after we had passed the fort we could see a "flag of truce" outside the fortifications.

No signal of any kind was made to the boat from the fort or from the shore.

No intimation was given us from the gun-boat, which had the right to order a steamer of this description, other than the order to proceed to Cairo to send down the ammunition.

From the fact that the Liberty had just passed down the river from the fort, with troops on board; from her hailing us to go by, and continuing her course down the river without stopping; that no signal was made the Olive Branch from the fort on the shore, and no attack was being made on the fort at the time; that the officer of the gun-boat said he did not want any boats to stop, and ordered the captain of the Olive Branch to go on and have ammunition sent down to him by first boat, I considered, and now consider, that the captain of the Olive Branch was not only justified in going on, but bound to proceed. The Olive Branch was incapable of rendering any assistance, being entirely defenseless. If any guns could have been placed in position on the boat, they could not have been elevated to reach sharpshooters on the high, steep bluff outside the fort. A very few sharpshooters from the shore near the fort could have prevented any landing, and have taken the boat. We supposed the object of the rebels was rather to seize a boat to effect a crossing into Arkansas than to capture the fort. We had no means of knowing or suspecting that so strong a position as Fort Pillow had not been properly garrisoned for defense, when it was in constant communication with General Hurlbut at Memphis.

The Olive Branch had just left Memphis, General Hurlbut's headquarters, where it had been during the previous night. If it had not been for the appearance of the Liberty, I should have attempted a landing at Fort Pillow in the small steamer. If any intimation had been given from the gun-boat, or the shore, I should have landed personally from the Olive Branch. The order given to the contrary prevented it.

Coming from New Orleans, and having no knowledge of affairs in that military district, I could not presume that a fort, with uninterrupted water communication above and below, could possibly be without a garrison strong enough to hold it for a few hours.

I write hastily and omit, from want of time, to state subsequent occurrences at Fort Columbus and Cairo, except to say that at Fort Columbus, in front of which Buford then was demanding a surrender, I stopped, started to ride out to the lines, and met Colonel Lawrence, the commanding officer, coming in from the front to his headquarters. Offered to remain, with the men on board. Colonel Lawrence said he was in good condition to stand any attack; could communicate with General Brayman; had already taken 400 infantry and one battery from the L. M. Kennett, which had just preceded us, and left 600 men, and another, or other batteries, on board, which he did not need. He declined the proffered assistance as not needed, and immediately on arrival at Cairo I reported all the information in my possession to General Brayman, in command, who was about leaving for Columbus.

Captain Thornton, Twelfth Maine Volunteers, a gallant officer, distinguished for his bravery at Ponchatoula, where he was wounded and left in the hands of the enemy, was on board the Olive Branch, and will take this communication to the committee. I respectfully ask that he may be thoroughly examined as to all the circumstances. I am conscious that a full examination will show that I rather exceeded than neglected my duty.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

G. F. SHEPLEY,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Hon. D. W. GOOCH,
*Of Committee on Conduct of the War.*

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No. 19.

*Report of Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, of operations March 6–April 7.*

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS.
*Athens, Ala., April 8, 1864.*

Lieut. Col. WILLIAM T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

I have the honor to herewith transmit General Veatch's report in accordance with the telegraph dispatch of General McPherson. General Veatch reported to me by telegraph from Cairo, and requested me to reply at Metropolis, Ill., and I sent the dispatch dated 27th ultimo. After sending this dispatch, the order of General Sherman,

ordering him to move on Purdy, was received and forwarded by me, reaching General Veatch at Clifton and Savannah. The order spoken of as issued April 2, ordering him to remain at Purdy, was not sent through these headquarters.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

HDQRS. FOURTH DIVISION, SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Prospect, Tenn., April 7*, 1864.

GENERAL: At Vicksburg, on March 6, 1864, I received a special order and letter of instructions of Major-General Sherman, commanding Department of the Tennessee, to move my command then present by water to Cairo; thence up Tennessee River to some convenient point; then to march by land and to report to you at Athens.

My command consisted of the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, Colonel Montgomery; Thirty-second Wisconsin, Colonel Howe; Seventeenth New York, Colonel Grower; Thirty-fifth New Jersey, Colonel Cladek; a detachment of the Twenty-fifth Indiana, Captain Larkin, and Company D, Second Illinois Light Artillery, Captain Cooper. As soon as transportation could be procured, my command was moved to Memphis to procure proper outfit for the field; thence to Cairo, reaching there on the 21st March. While waiting transportation at Cairo, the rebel General Forrest attacked Union City, Tenn., and at the request of Brigadier-General Brayman, commanding post at Cairo, the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, Thirty-second Wisconsin, Thirty-fifth New Jersey, and Seventeenth New York, under command of Colonel Montgomery, were moved down to re-enforce the garrison at Union City. The garrison had surrendered before they reached that place, and the troops returned to Cairo.

On the evening of the 25th of March, boats were reported ready to take the command up Tennessee River, and orders were issued to embark on the morning of the 26th.

On the afternoon of the 25th, Forrest attacked Paducah, Ky., and at the request of Brigadier-General Brayman I sent the Thirty-second Wisconsin, Colonel Howe, to re-enforce that place. He left Cairo at 12 o'clock at night, and reached Paducah early on the morning of the 26th. My whole command arrived at Paducah during the night of the 26th, but we were delayed until 3.30 p. m. on the 27th, waiting for a transport containing a large part of the division train.

Forrest had left Paducah, and was reported to have gone in the direction of Columbus. I proceeded up Tennessee River with the intention of landing at Clifton to march to Pulaski.

At 10.40 a. m. on the 28th, I received, by gun-boat Robb, Major-General Sherman's dispatch dated 4.15 p. m., 27th, directing me to "push rapidly to Savannah and move to Purdy to cut off Forrest's retreat." I made all possible speed up the river, touching at Clifton to send dispatch to you, and reached Savannah at 1 p. m. on the 29th, when I waited two hours for a detachment of Second Tennessee Mounted Infantry to join me, which had been ordered to report to me at that point by Major Murphy, commanding post at Clifton.

The detachment failing to reach me in time, I moved up to Williams' Landing, 4 miles above Savannah, and made preparations for a rapid march the next morning, taking three days' rations in haversacks, 60 rounds of ammunition, and all the forage that could be carried with our limited transportation—one wagon to the regiment.

At 1.30 a. m. on the 30th, after all my preparations were made for the march to Purdy, I received Major-General Sherman's second dispatch, dated March 27, 8 p. m., directing me to hasten to Purdy and the Hatchie to cut off Forrest's retreat. This indicated a longer march than the first dispatch, and required more rations and forage than I had prepared. To get on shore additional supplies and transportation would delay me some hours, as my wagons were in pieces. I determined to push on at once, and send back for supplies if needed.

During the night of the 29th, I sent two scouts to Purdy to push out west and north from that point and get all information of the movements of the enemy. My command made a rapid march, and reached Purdy at 12 o'clock on the 30th. There was no rebel force near there except Colonel Wisdom's cavalry, about 120 strong, conscripting in that vicinity.

I immediately sent out scouts to the Hatchie at Pocahontas, and toward Bolivar and Jackson.

A detachment of mounted infantry, about 30 strong, under command of Major Haney, from Clifton, reached me after my arrival at Purdy, and were sent out on the roads leading west and north to pick up information.

The reports of my scouts, of the mounted infantry, and of citizens all concurred that Forrest was between Paducah and Jackson, and that he was not moving in the direction of Purdy. I did not move to the Hatchie because Purdy was clearly the key-point to that part of the country, from which I could move to the Hatchie if necessary.

By the same messenger who brought Major-General Sherman's second dispatch, above referred to, I received Major-General Hurlbut's letter of the 26th, Brigadier-General Brayman's dispatch of the 27th, and Brigadier-General Dodge's dispatch of the 27th.

The opinion of Major-General Hurlbut that Forrest intended to cross the Tennessee River, the dispatch of General Brayman that Forrest was only 12 miles from Columbus, Ky., and the information obtained at Purdy that officers of Forrest's command, left behind at Purdy, had gone north to join him, satisfied me that he was moving to some point to cross the river below Clifton. Acting upon this information I returned on the night of the 31st to my transports at Williams' Landing, reaching there at 11 p. m.

At my camp on Sugar Creek, at 10.30 p. m. on the 6th of April, I received Major-General McPherson's dispatch requiring me to make an immediate report giving the reasons for my withdrawal from Purdy.

The statement of facts above made, I trust, will be deemed amply sufficient, but in addition thereto I respectfully submit the following reasons: The dispatches of Major-General Sherman gave me no special instructions how long to remain, nor what course to take if I found the movements of the enemy different from those indicated in his dispatches. When I left Cairo no such movement of my command was contemplated, and I had only drawn supplies to last my command upon the march, as directed by General Sherman's letter of instructions.

At Purdy I found the country had been stripped of everything, and that no supplies could be obtained for either men or animals. If I remained long in that vicinity I should be compelled to send transports back to Cairo for supplies, thus greatly delaying my movements to Athens; but I left Purdy one day sooner than I had

intended on account of the very bad condition of the roads at the crossing of Snake Creek. There was every indication of a heavy storm of rain, which would most likely render the roads impassable for artillery for several days. The rain-storm struck us while crossing Snake Creek on our return, and if the march had been delayed a few hours the roads would have been impassable.

Upon returning to the transports I determined to move up to Eastport, as directed by the letter of Major-General Hurlbut, and then, if necessary, march to the Hatchie by the way of Corinth.

On the morning of April 1, I received a dispatch from Major Murphy, commanding at Clifton, stating his belief that Forrest was preparing to cross the river between Clifton and Reynoldsburg. I remained at Williams' Landing till 2 p. m., awaiting further information or dispatches, and then moved up for Eastport. I lay up during the night 8 miles below Eastport on account of darkness and the dangerous character of the river.

Next morning moved up to Eastport; thence to Waterloo. Finding it unsafe to go over the shoals I disembarked the troops and went into camp near Waterloo.

On the morning of the 3d, the transports were discharged and directed to report to Lieutenant O'Neil, commanding gun-boat No. 31, for convoy to Paducah.

At 12 o'clock on the 3d, I moved on the Florence road, and marching by the way of Florence, Gilbertsborough, and Bethel, reached Prospect, Tenn., at 2 p. m. on the 7th.

At 5.30 a. m., 7th instant, at my camp on Sugar Creek, I received Major-General Sherman's dispatch of April 2 instructing me to remain at or near Purdy. Had I received this instruction in time I should certainly have remained at Purdy until ordered to leave. Having no definite instructions I acted upon the best information I could obtain, and obeyed as fully as lay in my power every order I received.

I submit herewith copies of the orders and dispatches referred to in this report, and respectfully call attention particularly to their contents.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES C. VEATCH,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brigadier-General DODGE,
*Commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
*Nashville, Tenn., April* 13, 1864.

General Veatch should have remained at Purdy under his orders till recalled, but now it is too late to remedy the error. I am willing to admit that it was not intentional.

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosuure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
*Vicksburg, March* 6, 1864.

Brig. Gen. J. C. VEATCH,
*Commanding Fourth Division, Sixteenth Corps:*

SIR: By my orders of to-day it is provided that your present command be moved by water to Cairo, thence up the Tennessee River to

some convenient point, and thence by land to join General Dodge's command near Athens, Ala.*

To enable you to fulfill these orders you can take passage by regiments and detachments in steamers bound up the Mississippi, and disembark at Cairo. There the quartermaster will be instructed to charter a sufficient number of boats to carry your command at one trip up the Tennessee River, and in selecting boats he will be governed by the stage of water in the Tennessee. If the stage of water be low, you will disembark your command at Savannah and march for Pulaski, and report in advance by courier to General Dodge. But should there be a good stage of water and should Colbert Shoals be passable you may proceed up to Florence and disembark there ; but if there be the least doubt on this subject it will be better to land at Savannah or Waterloo, opposite Eastport.

Draw your supplies at Cairo, and so calculate the quantity that your wagons will be able to haul everything belonging to you from the point of disembarkation to Pulaski and Athens. Report by telegraph and mail your progress to my headquarters at Huntsville, Ala.

On arrival at your destination you will assume command of your entire division, subject to the command of General Dodge, till the corps headquarters are removed from Memphis to that army in the field.

Impress on your colonels and subordinate officers the importance of preserving good discipline, cleanliness, and a soldierly appearance on board the boats, at Cairo, and wherever the command may be. Leave no men behind, but reduce your camp and garrison equipage to the smallest limit, as the weather is now moderate and winter past.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
No. 61. } *Memphis, Tenn., March* 15, 1864.

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II. Brig. Gen. J. C. Veatch, commanding Fourth Division, will move the regiments of his division now with him at Memphis by steamers to Cairo, thence by the Tennessee River to Clifton or Carrollville, thence by land to Pulaski, Tenn., or Athens, Ala., reporting to Brig. Gen. G. M. Dodge, commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps. As soon as his last regiment arrives at Memphis from Vicksburg and proper requisitions, &c., for supplies are signed, General Veatch will personally proceed to Cairo to secure transportation and convoy for his troops. If time will permit without injury to the movement, he will be allowed five days from Cairo to visit his home.

By order of Maj. Gen. S. A. Hurlbut :

T. H. HARRIS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*See p. 190.

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Memphis, Tenn., March 26, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. J. C. VEATCH,
*Cairo, Ill.:*

GENERAL: I am satisfied that Forrest, with about 2,500 men, is in reality seeking to cross the Tennessee, probably at Eastport, where Dodge thinks he has a steam-boat. You should push forward at once, securing convoy and moving your whole force together. Go as high as Eastport if the river permits. If he has crossed before you reach the point on the river where he has crossed, land at Carrollville or Eastport, as you judge best, and follow out your first orders by moving to Pulaski or Athens. If he has not crossed, hold your boats under cover of gun-boats and move from Savannah or Eastport back to the Hatchie, either at Bolivar or Davis' Mills, sending me word if practicable. This will take him in rear if he is in West Tennessee and force him back. He is reported to have six guns. If you can hear nothing of him as you go up the river you will of course proceed on your course, and report to General Dodge.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 4.]

NASHVILLE, *March 27*, 1864—4.15 p. m.

COMMANDING OFFICER,
[*Paducah, Ky.:*]

Notify General Veatch at once that, after being satisfied that Forrest cannot cross the Tennessee and Cumberland, he should push rapidly to Savannah and move to Purdy to cut off Forrest's retreat. If Veatch has gone up the river, send this message after him if possible.

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 5.]

NASHVILLE, *March 27*, 1864—8 p. m.

General VEATCH,
*Via Paducah:*

Hasten up to Savannah and aim to get to Purdy and the Hatchie before Forrest returns, and so cut off his retreat. Grierson will follow him close.

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General.*

[Indorsement.]

Commanding officer at Paducah forward this at once.

[Inclosure No. 6.]

ATHENS, *March 27*, 1864.

Brig. Gen. J. C. VEATCH,
*Comdg. 4th Div., 16th Army Corps, Metropolis, Ill.:*

Proceed with your command, as directed by General Sherman, and move from whatever point you land as speedily as possible to Decatur, Ala.

You will have to cross the Elk River on bridge at Prospect, Tenn.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

[Inclosure No. 7.]

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. 4TH DIV., 16TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 6. } *Williams' Landing, Tenn., March* 29, 1864.

The troops of this command will march at 5 a. m. on the 30th instant for Purdy, the First Brigade in advance. Forty rounds of ammunition must be carried by each man, and 20 rounds per man must be carried in wagons. Three days' rations will be carried in haversacks. Only one wagon and two ambulances per regiment will be allowed. As much forage must be carried as possible with the limited transportation, as the country is supposed to contain but little. The troops must march in readiness for battle, as the enemy may be expected at any moment after leaving our present camp.

By order of Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch:

F. W. FOX,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure No. 8.]

HEADQUARTERS,
*Clifton, Tenn., March* 31, 1864.

Maj. OWEN HANEY,
*Comdg. Detachment Second Tennessee Mounted Infantry:*

MAJOR: Your courier reached here a few moments ago. Inclosed you will find copy of a letter I was just sending to Columbia. It will give you all the information I am in possession of. Show it to General Veatch. They pushed the scouts so closely they could not go in the country as far as I desired. Forrest had not passed Jackson when they left the neighborhood of Decaturville. I am told you have not M. Shipman with you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. MURPHY,
*Major Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, Commanding Post.*

[Sub-inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS,
*Clifton, Tenn., March* 31, 1864—7 p. m.

COMMANDING OFFICER,
*Columbia, Tenn.:*

SIR: I learn from my scouts that Forrest is yet between Jackson and Paducah. He may make a strike at Columbus, or perhaps cross the river between here and Reynoldsburg. Five hundred of his men were to be at Jackson last night. The information I have leads me to believe he will try to get in with Morgan in Kentucky, or in the neighborhood of Nashville; at least that is what his officers say. There is also another rumor of his making another dash on Paducah. My opinion is he will cross to this side and tear up the railroads. Inform commanding officer at Nashville.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. MURPHY,
*Major Fifth Tennessee Cavalry, Commanding Post.*

[Inclosure No. 9.]

NASHVILLE, *April* 2, 1864.

Brigadier-General VEATCH, *At or near Purdy:*

(To be sent up Tennessee River by General Brayman on dispatch boat.)

I want you to remain at or near Purdy. Forrest will soon attempt to escape, and I want you to keep your force well in hand, and as he attempts to move south keep him in view. You can surely prevent his carrying off any train or plunder. Major-General Hurlbut, with infantry and cavalry, will come out from Memphis to Bolivar, and will try and communicate with you. I will instruct General Brayman at Cairo also to feel for Forrest out from Columbus. The river will be patrolled by gun-boats. If you feel certain that Forrest has crossed into Tennessee from Kentucky, you can also cross and move toward Pulaski.

W. T. SHERMAN,
*Major-General.*

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No. 20.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, operations April 3–5.*

RALEIGH, TENN., *April* 4, 1864.

COLONEL: Yesterday morning I sent Colonel Waring from this point on the main Somerville road to proceed as far as practicable. I sent Colonel Hurst through Shelby and Wythe Depots to look well to the crossings of the Loosahatchie. One battalion of the Sixth Tennessee was left at this point with Colonel Brumback with orders to scout north on the Covington road.

With Colonel Hepburn's command I proceeded toward Macon via Fisherville. When in the vicinity of Fisherville I received courier from Colonel Waring with word that he was fighting a considerable force between Morning Sun and Leake's. I moved from Fisherville north to the Somerville road at Leake's, hoping to come in on the flank or rear of the enemy. Arriving here we found that Colonel Waring had been briskly engaged, and had dropped back toward Morning Sun. The enemy also had fallen back toward Somerville, leaving a strong picket at Leake's, which my advance charged and drove back on the main force, which was strongly posted behind Spring Creek. From all information the enemy were over 2,000 strong, and the officer in charge of the advance so reported them.

Not hearing from Colonel Hurst at this point, and Colonel Waring having dropped back to Morning Sun, I deemed it best to join him at that point, where I expected to remain for the night, but not finding forage I moved to this place and sent to Memphis for the needful. I shall to-day send out expeditions and watch their movements closely. A picket of 25 men was found at one of the crossings of Loosahatchie.

I inclose Colonel Waring's report.* A most significant fact is that there is no travel upon the roads, nor has there been for three days.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. H. GRIERSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieut. Col. T. H. HARRIS, *A. A. G.*

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* See p. 582.

NORTH OF WOLF RIVER, NEAR RALEIGH,
*April* 5, 1864—11.30 a. m.

GENERAL: Your dispatch just received. The enemy made an attempt on our pickets last night on the Somerville road, and lost 1 man killed. I started a force toward Somerville before daylight this morning. They have just returned and report the enemy to have moved east in the night.

From a lady, who lives 12 miles this side of Purdy, and who came in last night, I learn that Forrest had sent his prisoners, trains, and plunder south via Pocahontas. With his main force disencumbered he moved south via Saulsbury, throwing out sufficient force to check any advance from this direction. She reports that it is his intention to attack Memphis, in which he expects to be joined by forces from below. If he fails in this, it is my opinion that he will move north again to Jackson, with a view of fulfilling his original intention of crossing the Tennessee. I sent Lieutenant-Colonel Hepburn this morning with his force via White's Station to the Pigeon Roost road, to scout to Olive Branch. I have destroyed the ferries at the crossings on the old and new Raleigh roads, and at the crossing of the Macon and Memphis road. I will move with Waring and Hurst via Mount Pleasant toward Hudsonville. The infantry will return to Memphis to-night. This lady reports that a portion of Forrest's command had a fight with a force between Purdy and the Tennessee River. She is the wife of a lieutenant in the Sixth Tennessee.

Respectfully,

B. H. GRIERSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. Gen. S. A. HURLBUT,
*Memphis.*

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No. 21.

*Report of Col. George E. Waring, jr., Fourth Missouri Cavalry, commanding First Brigade, of skirmish near Raleigh, April 3.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Raleigh, Tenn., April* 3, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to the orders of Brigadier-General Grierson, my command marched from this place at 8 a. m. to-day, on the road to Oakland and Somerville.

My advance guard, Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, learned from citizens and negroes that the enemy was stationed in heavy force in the swamps between Leake's and Oakland, also that from 3,000 to 5,000 rebels under Neely and McCulloch were encamped from 3 to 6 miles east of Oakland on the Somerville road. They were said to have orders to check every attempt of ours to advance toward Bolivar. At Leake's the advance came upon the picket of the enemy, and almost immediately a skirmish ensued. As nearly as I can judge there were from 500 to 700 of the enemy actually engaged. The Seventh Indiana Cavalry at once re-enforced the advance guard, making with the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry almost 350 men. The enemy very soon retired in such a manner as to seem to invite us to follow into the swamp, which lay immediately

in front of our position. Our flanking parties had discovered a very large supporting force of the enemy. The whole number of rebel troops seen by us could not have been less than 1,500, and was probably 2,000. This seemed to confirm the testimony of the people along the road, and as my instructions were not to bring on a general engagement with a superior force. I did not take the Second New Jersey Cavalry into action, but retired slowly and without confusion, notifying the supporting columns on my flanks of my action. I arrived at this place at 7.30 o'clock this evening, leaving a strong picket at Union Depot.

My loss was 1 man killed and 3 wounded. Both dead and wounded were brought off the field. Captain Wenick, Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, is missing; whether he was killed or captured, or whether, as is not unlikely, he made his escape in the woods, I am not able to say.

The troops of my command behaved with coolness and bravery. My thanks are especially due to Lieutenant-Colonel Hess, commanding Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and Major Beck, commanding detachment Seventh Indiana Cavalry, for the skill and judgment with which they conducted the skirmish.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. WARING, JR.,
*Colonel Fourth Missouri Cavalry, Commanding.*

Captain WOODWARD,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

It is believed that we killed 6 of the enemy on the ground.

WARING,
*Colonel.*

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No. 22.

*Reports of Maj. John C. Febles, Seventh Indiana Cavalry, of operations March 28–30 and April 9.*

HDQRS. SEVENTH INDIANA VOLUNTEER CAVALRY,
*Camp Grierson, Tenn., March 30, 1864.*

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the scouting party sent under my command on Monday night, the 28th instant:

I left Camp Grierson on Monday night with 100 men, and proceeded rapidly to Coldwater River, Miss., crossed it at Pounder's Ford, and arrived at Cockrum's Cross-Roads at 1 o'clock of the same day, a distance of about 40 miles.

At Pounder's Ferry we had a little skirmish with a small party of rebels, and we captured 2 of them. From these prisoners and other sources I learned that McCulloch and Richardson's forces, under General Chalmers, encamped on Sunday night at Tyro, Miss.; that five days' rations were cooked and the train sent back, and that on Monday he moved up to Tallaloosa and Tuesday passed through Holly Springs about noon, en route for Tennessee; that he would probably cross his forces at Bolivar to-morrow, the 31st. From Cockrum's we proceeded toward Holly Springs until we came within about 12 or 15 miles of that place. We had several skirmishes with scouting parties from General Chalmers' command.

We charged forces of the enemy, as large as 30 in number. We captured 5 prisoners, 3 horses, and 6 mules. We lost no men, nor had we any wounded. We lost 1 horse, tired out.

The enemy being so near in force we thought it not safe to move forward any farther, nor did we consider it safe to go into camp. Our horses being considerably fatigued, having traveled about 50 miles without any rest only long enough to feed, and having ascertained all we could in regard to the movements of the enemy, we turned back at about 5 o'clock and reached this camp by nearly the same route we went at 1 p. m. to-day.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN C. FEBLES,
*Major, in Command of Expedition.*

Col. GEORGE E. WARING, Jr.,
*Commanding First Brigade.*

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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH INDIANA CAVALRY,
*Near Memphis, April* 9, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the result of the scout under my command to-day:

I was ordered by you to leave this camp with a force of 100 men at 3.30 o'clock this morning, but on account of the tardiness of the detail from the Nineteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, which made a part of the force, I was unable to leave camp until about 4.30 o'clock. I proceeded to Wolf River on the Randolph road, crossed my command on the ferry, and sent, as per order, 25 men, under command of Captain Roberts, on the Randolph road to the Loosahatchie River with instructions to cross the river, if possible, and advance on the other side about 2 miles and return.

With the remaining 75 men I proceeded toward Raleigh, a distance of 9 miles from the ferry. Four miles on this side of Raleigh my command was fired into by a squad of 15 or 20 rebels, upon which we charged, mortally wounding 1, and in a very effective way dispersing the others. About 2 miles farther we were fired into again by 3 men, who I suppose were standing picket. We returned the fire, and they ran into the woods. Here I learned from a citizen who had just come from Raleigh that there were about 100 rebels in the town. I moved my command rapidly on, and about three-fourths of a mile from town I ordered a charge into the place in order, if possible, to surprise the enemy and capture a portion of them. Upon arriving at Raleigh I soon learned that the enemy had all left about half an hour before our arrival except 10, who seemed to be moving out as rear guard to the command. We fired upon them, and captured 2, one, I think, a lieutenant. We learned here that there was a force of about 500 at Union Depot, about 3 miles from Raleigh. We had 1 horse killed at this place. We also killed 1 of the enemy's horses and captured another.

I learned, but perhaps not reliably, that Colonel Barteau was in command at Union Depot. I also learned that Major McDonald had a force of about 200, about 3 miles northwest of Raleigh. There is, I am convinced, no large force anywhere near Raleigh. I remained about half an hour in the place, and then returned to the ferry on Wolf River and waited for the return of Captain Roberts from the Loosahatchie River. The captain soon returned, and reported that

he had crossed the ferry at the above-named river and proceeded several miles on the other side; that he saw no enemy at all. I then recrossed the Wolf River, and arrived in camp at about 1 p. m.

The road to Raleigh on which I went is small, and almost entirely through the woods; some swampy.

No casualties in my command except as above mentioned.

I am, colonel, yours, most obediently,

JOHN C. FEBLES,
*Major Seventh Indiana Cavalry, Commanding.*

Col. GEORGE E. WARING, Jr.,
*Commanding Brigade.*

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No. 23.

*Report of Maj. P. Jones Yorke, Second New Jersey Cavalry, of skirmish near Bolivar.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., CAVALRY DIVISION, 16TH CORPS,
*Camp Grierson, near Memphis, March* 30, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I inclose two reports* received this day from scouting parties from my command.

I respectfully call attention to the fact that the cavalry which repulsed Colonel Hurst must be a force which we have not taken into consideration, as it seems not to have been McCulloch's, and could not have been Forrest's.

I have every road near me picketed at a distance of from 2 to 3½ miles.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. WARING, Jr.,
*Colonel Fourth Missouri Cavalry, Commanding.*

Capt. SAMUEL L. WOODWARD,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Indorsement.]

This cavalry is Neely's, late Richardson's, command.

S. A. H.

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT FIRST CAVALRY BRIGADE,
*Raleigh, Tenn., March* 30, 1864—12 m.

Colonel Hurst, Sixth Tennessee Cavalry, was attacked and whipped yesterday between Somerville and Bolivar by a brigade of the enemy's cavalry. He lost all his trains, Captain Moore killed, the surgeon captured, and a great many men killed, wounded, and missing. As it was reported by a prisoner I captured yesterday afternoon near Somerville that a force under General Chalmers from La Grange was advancing toward this river, I thought it best to fall back and hold the ferries at Shelby and this point.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. JONES YORKE,
*Major, Commanding Detachment.*

Col. G. E. WARING, Jr.,
*Commanding Brigade.*

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* Febles', p. 583, and Yorke's.

No. 24.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, U. S. Army, transmitting correspondence with Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Lee and Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., June* 20, 1864.

Col. E. D. TOWNSEND,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:*

COLONEL: I have the honor to inclose copies of correspondence between Major-General Forrest and myself. As it pertains to the treatment of colored troops, I beg to request that the attention of the Secretary of War be specially called to it.

It gives me pleasure to state that the conduct of the colored troops on the occasion of the late fight was of the most gallant character.

I am, colonel, your obedient servant,

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 1.*]

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*In the Field, June* 14, 1864.

[Maj. Gen. C. C. WASHBURN:]

GENERAL: I have the honor herewith to inclose copy of letter received from Brigadier-General Buford, commanding U. S. forces at Helena, Ark., addressed to Col. E. W. Rucker, commanding Sixth Brigade of this command; also a letter from myself to General Buford, which I respectfully request you to read and forward to him.

There is a matter also to which I desire to call your attention, which until now I have not thought proper to make the subject of a communication. Recent events render it necessary, in fact demand it.

It has been reported to me that all the negro troops stationed in Memphis took an oath on their knees, in the presence of Major-General Hurlbut and other officers of your army, to avenge Fort Pillow, and that they would show my troops no quarter. Again, I have it from indisputable authority that the troops under Brigadier-General Sturgis, on their recent march from Memphis, publicly and in various places proclaimed that no quarter would be shown my men. As his troops were moved into action on the 11th [10th] the officers commanding exhorted their men to remember Fort Pillow, and a large majority of the prisoners we have captured from that command have voluntarily stated that they expected us to murder them; otherwise they would have surrendered in a body rather than taken to the bush after being run down and exhausted. The recent battle of Tishomingo Creek was far more bloody than it would otherwise have been but for the fact that your men evidently expected to be slaughtered when captured, and both sides acted as though neither felt safe in surrendering, even when further resistance was useless. The prisoners captured by us say they felt condemned by the announcement, &c., of their own commanders, and expected no quarter.

*Another copy of this letter, substantially the same in purport but differing slightly in phraseology, was forwarded by General S. D. Lee, and is on file. See p. 606.

In all my operations since the war began I have conducted the war on civilized principles, and desire still to do so, but it is due to my command that they should know the position they occupy and the policy you intend to pursue. I therefore respectfully ask whether my men now in your hands are treated as other Confederate prisoners; also, the course intended to be pursued in regard to those who may hereafter fall into your hands.

I have in my possession quite a number of wounded officers and men of General Sturgis' command, all of whom have been treated as well as we were able to treat them, and are mostly in charge of a surgeon left at Ripley by General Sturgis to look after the wounded. Some of them are too severely wounded to be removed at present. I am willing to exchange them for any men of my command you may have, and as soon as they are able to be removed will give them safe escort through my lines in charge of the surgeon left with them. I made such an arrangement with Major-General Hurlbut when he was in command at Memphis, and am willing to renew it, provided it is desired, as it would be better than to subject them to the long and fatiguing trip necessary to a regular exchange at City Point, Va.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., July* [*June*] 17, 1864.

Maj. Gen. S. D. LEE,
*Commanding Confederate Forces, near Tupelo, Miss.:*

GENERAL: When I heard that the forces of Brigadier-General Sturgis had been driven back and a portion of them probably captured, I felt considerable solicitude for the fate of the two colored regiments that formed a part of the command, until I was informed that the Confederate forces were commanded by you. When I learned that, I became satisfied that no atrocities would be committed upon these troops, but that they would receive the treatment which humanity as well as their gallant conduct demanded.

I regret to say that the hope that I entertained has been dispelled by facts which have recently come to my knowledge. From statements that have been made to me by colored soldiers who were eyewitnesses, it would seem that the massacre of Fort Pillow had been reproduced at the late affair at Brice's Cross-Roads. The details of the atrocities there committed I will not trouble you with. If true and not disavowed they must lead to consequences hereafter fearful to contemplate.

It is best that we should now have a fair understanding upon the question of the treatment of this class of soldiers. If it is contemplated by the Confederate Government to murder all colored troops that may by the chance of war fall into their hands, as was the case at Fort Pillow, it is but fair that it should be freely and frankly avowed. Within the last six weeks I have on two occasions sent colored troops into the field from this point. In the expectation that the Confederate Government would disavow the action of the commanding general at the Fort Pillow massacre I have forborne to issue any instructions to the colored troops as to the course they should pursue toward Confederate soldiers that might fall into their hands; but seeing no disavowal on the part of the Confederate Government, but on the contrary laudations from the

entire Southern press of the perpetrators of the massacre, I may safely presume that indiscriminate slaughter is to be the fate of colored troops that fall into your hands; but I am not willing to leave a matter of such grave import and involving consequences so fearful to inference, and I have therefore thought it proper to address you this, believing that you will be able to indicate the policy that the Confederate Government intends to pursue hereafter on this question. If it is intended to raise the black flag against that unfortunate race, they will cheerfully accept the issue. Up to this time no troops have fought more gallantly and none have conducted themselves with greater propriety. They have fully vindicated their right (so long denied) to be treated as men. I hope I have been misinformed in regard to the treatment they have received at the battle of Brice's Cross-Roads, and that the accounts received result rather from the excited imaginations of the fugitives than from actual fact. For the government of the colored troops under my command I would thank you to inform me, with as little delay as possible, if it is your intention or the intention of the Confederate Government to murder colored soldiers that may fall into your hands, or treat them as prisoners of war and subject to be exchanged as other prisoners.

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., June* 19, 1864.

Maj. Gen. N. B. FORREST,
*Commanding Confederate Forces:*

GENERAL: Your communication of the 14th instant is received. The letter to Brigadier-General Buford will be forwarded to him.

In regard to that part of your letter which relates to colored troops, I beg to say that I have already sent a communication on the same subject to the officer in command of the Confederate forces at Tupelo. Having understood that Maj. Gen. S. D. Lee was in command there, I directed my letter to him. A copy of it I inclose.*

You say in your letter that it has been reported to you "that all the negro troops stationed at Memphis took an oath on their knees, in the presence of Major-General Hurlbut and other officers of our army, to avenge Fort Pillow, and that they would show your troops no quarter." I believe that it is true that the colored troops did take such an oath, but not in the presence of General Hurlbut. From what I can learn, this act of theirs was not influenced by any white officer, but was the result of their own sense of what was due to themselves and their fellows, who had been mercilessly slaughtered. I have no doubt that they went into the field as you allege, in the full belief that they would be murdered in case they fell into your hands. The affair of Fort Pillow fully justified that belief. I am not aware as to what they proclaimed on their late march, and it may be as you say, that they declared that no quarter would be given to any of your men that might fall into their hands. Your declaration that you have conducted the war on all occasions on civilized principles cannot be accepted, but I receive

*See inclosure No. 2, preceding.

with satisfaction the intimation in your letter that the recent slaughter of colored troops at the battle of Tishomingo Creek resulted rather from the desperation with which they fought than a predetermined intention to give them no quarter. You must have learned by this time that the attempt to intimidate the colored troops by indiscriminate slaughter has signally failed, and that instead of a feeling of terror you have aroused a spirit of courage and desperation that will not down at your bidding.

I am left in doubt by your letter as to the course you and the Confederate Government intend to pursue hereafter in regard to colored troops, and I beg you to advise me with as little delay as possible as to your intention. If you intend to treat such of them as fall into your hands as prisoners of war, please so state. If you do not so intend, but contemplate either their slaughter or their return to slavery, please state that, so that we may have no misunderstanding hereafter. If the former is your intention, I shall receive the announcement with pleasure, and shall explain the fact to the colored troops at once, and desire that they recall the oath that they have taken. If the latter is the case, then let the oath stand, and upon those who have aroused this spirit by their atrocities, and upon the Government and the people who sanction it, be the consequences.

In regard to your inquiry relating to prisoners of your command in our hands, I state that they have always received the treatment which a great and humane Government extends to its prisoners. What course will be pursued hereafter toward them must of course depend on circumstances that may arise. If your command hereafter do nothing which should properly exclude them from being treated as prisoners of war, they will be so treated. I thank you for your offer to exchange wounded officers and men in your hands. If you will send them in I will exchange, man for man, so far as I have the ability to do so.

Before closing this letter I wish to call your attention to one case of unparalleled outrage and murder that has been brought to my notice, and in regard to which the evidence is overwhelming. Among the prisoners captured at Fort Pillow was Major Bradford, who had charge of the defenses of the fort, after the fall of Major Booth. After being taken prisoner he was started with other prisoners in charge of Colonel Duckworth for Jackson. At Brownsville they rested over night. The following morning two companies were detailed by Colonel Duckworth to proceed to Jackson with the prisoners. After they had started and proceeded a very short distance, 5 soldiers were recalled by Colonel Duckworth and were conferred with by him. They then rejoined the column, and after proceeding about 5 miles from Brownsville the column was halted and Major Bradford taken about 50 yards from the roadside and deliberately shot by the 5 men who had been recalled by Colonel Duckworth, and his body left unburied upon the ground where he fell. He now lies buried near the spot, and if you desire, you can easily satisfy yourself of the truth of what I assert. I beg leave to say to you that this transaction hardly justifies your remark that your operations have been conducted on civilized principles, and until you take some steps to bring the perpetrators of this outrage to justice the world will not fail to believe that it had your sanction.

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant.

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., July 6, 1864.*

Col. E. D. TOWNSEND,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., U. S. Army, Washington, D. C..*

COLONEL: On the 20th ultimo I inclosed copies of correspondence between Major-General Forrest and myself in regard to the Fort Pillow massacre and treatment of colored troops. I now inclose further correspondence between Major-General Forrest and Lieutenant-General Lee and myself, on the same subject.

I am, colonel, respectfully, yours,

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*Tupelo, June 25 [23], 1864.*

Maj. Gen. C. C. WASHBURN,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Memphis:*

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt (per flag of truce) of your letter of 17th instant, addressed to Maj. Gen. S. D. Lee, or officer commanding Confederate forces near Tupelo. I have forwarded it to General Lee with a copy of this letter.

I regard your letter as discourteous to the commanding officer of this department, and grossly insulting to myself. You seek by implied threats to intimidate him, and assume the privilege of denouncing me as a murderer and as guilty of the wholesale slaughter of the garrison at Fort Pillow, and found your assertions upon the *ex parte* testimony of your friends, the enemies of myself and country.

I shall not enter into the discussion, therefore, of any of the questions involved nor undertake any refutation of the charges made by you against myself; nevertheless, as a matter of personal privilege alone, I unhesitatingly say that they are unfounded and unwarranted by the facts. But whether these charges are true or false, they, with the question you ask as to whether negro troops when captured will be recognized and treated as prisoners of war, subject to exchange, &c., are matters which the Government of the United States and Confederate States are to decide and adjust, not their subordinate officers.

I regard captured negroes as I do other captured property and not as captured soldiers, but as to how regarded by my Government and the disposition which has been and will hereafter be made of them, I respectfully refer you through the proper channel to the authorities at Richmond. It is not the policy nor the interest of the South to destroy the negro—on the contrary, to preserve and protect him—and all who have surrendered to us have received kind and humane treatment.

Since the war began I have captured many thousand Federal prisoners, and they, including the survivors of the Fort Pillow massacre (black and white), are living witnesses of the fact that with my knowledge or consent, or by my order, not one of them has ever been insulted or in any way maltreated.

You speak of your forbearance in not giving to your negro troops instructions and orders as to the course they should pursue in regard to Confederate soldiers that might fall into their (your)

hands, which clearly conveys to my mind two very distinct impressions. The first is that in not giving them instructions and orders you have left the matter entirely to the discretion of the negroes as to how they should dispose of prisoners; second, an implied threat to give such orders as will lead to "consequences too fearful for contemplation." In confirmation of the correctness of the first impression (which your language now fully develops), I refer you most respectfully to my letter from the battle-field of Tishomingo Creek and forwarded you by flag of truce on the 14th instant. As to the second impression, you seem disposed to take into your own hands the settlements which belong to, and can only be settled by, your Government, but if you are prepared to take upon yourself the responsibility of inaugurating a system of warfare contrary to civilized usages, the onus as well as the consequences will be chargeable to yourself.

Deprecating, as I should do, such a state of affairs, determined as I am not to be instrumental in bringing it about, feeling and knowing as I do that I have the approval of my Government, my people, and my own conscience, as to the past, and with the firm belief that I will be sustained by them in my future policy, it is left with you to determine what that policy shall be—whether in accordance with the laws of civilized nations or in violation of them.

I am, general, yours, very respectfully,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*In the Field, June 23, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. C. C. WASHBURN,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Memphis, Tenn.:*

GENERAL: Your communication of the 19th instant is received, in which you say "you are left in doubt as to the course the Confederate Government intends to pursue hereafter in regard to colored troops."

Allow me to say that this is a subject upon which I did not and do not propose to enlighten you. It is a matter to be settled by our Governments through their proper officers, and I respectfully refer you to them for a solution of your doubts. You ask me to state whether "I contemplate either their slaughter or their return to slavery." I answer that I slaughter no man except in open warfare, and that my prisoners, both white and black, are turned over to my Government to be dealt with as it may direct. My Government is in possession of all the facts as regards my official conduct and the operations of my command since I entered the service, and if you desire a proper discussion and decision, I refer you again to the President of the Confederate States.

I would not have you understand, however, that in a matter of so much importance I am indisposed to place at your command and disposal any facts desired, when applied for in a manner becoming an officer holding your rank and position, for it is certainly desirable to every one occupying a public position to be placed right before the world, and there has been no time since the capture of Fort Pillow that I would not have furnished all the facts connected with its capture had they been applied for properly; but now the matter

rests with the two Governments. I have, however, for your information, inclosed you copies of the official correspondence between the commanding officers at Fort Pillow and myself; also copies of a statement of Captain Young, the senior officer of that garrison, together with (sufficient) extracts from a report of the affair by my aide-de-camp, Capt. Charles W. Anderson, which I approve and indorse as correct.

As to the death of Major Bradford, I knew nothing of it until eight or ten days after it is said to have occurred. On the 13th (the day after the capture of Fort Pillow) I went to Jackson, and the report that I had of the affair was this: Major Bradford was with other officers sent to the headquarters of Colonel McCulloch, and all the prisoners were in charge of one of McCulloch's regiments. Bradford requested the privilege of attending the burial of his brother, which was granted, he giving his parole to return; instead of returning he changed his clothing and started for Memphis. Some of my men were hunting deserters, and came on Bradford just as he had landed on the south bank of Hatchie, and arrested him. When arrested he claimed to be a Confederate soldier belonging to Bragg's army; that he had been [home*] on furlough, and was then on his way to join his command. As he could show no papers he was believed to be a deserter and was taken to Covington, and not until he was recognized and spoken to by citizens did the guards know that he was Bradford. He was sent by Colonel Duckworth, or taken by him, to Brownsville. All of Chalmers' command went [south*] from Brownsville via La Grange, and as all the other prisoners had been gone some time, and there was no chance for them to catch up and place Bradford with them, he was ordered by Colonel Duckworth or General Chalmers to be sent to me at Jackson. I knew nothing of the matter until eight or ten days afterward. I heard that his body was found near Brownsville. I understand that he attempted to escape, and was shot. If he was improperly killed nothing would afford me more pleasure than to punish the perpetrators to the full extent of the law, and to show you how I regard such transactions I can refer you to my demand upon Major-General Hurlbut (no doubt upon file in your office) for the delivery to Confederate authorities of one Col. Fielding Hurst and others of his regiment, who deliberately took out and killed 7 Confederate soldiers, one of whom they left to die after cutting off his tongue, punching out his eyes, splitting his mouth on each side to his ears, and cutting off his privates.

I have mentioned and given you these facts in order that you may have no further excuse or apology for referring to these matters in connection with myself, and to evince to you my determination to do all in my power to avoid the responsibility of causing the adoption of the policy which you seem determined to press.

In your letter you acknowledge the fact that the negro troops did take an oath on bended knee to show no quarter to my men; and you say further, "you have no doubt they went to the battle-field expecting to be slaughtered," and admit also the probability of their having proclaimed on their [line of*] march that no quarter would be shown us. Such being the case, why do you ask for the disavowal on the part of the commanding general of this department or the Government in regard to the loss of life at Tishomingo Creek? That your troops expected to be slaughtered, appears to me, after the oath they

*According to copy forwarded by General S. D. Lee. See p. 606.

took, to be a very reasonable and natural expectation. Yet you, who sent them out, knowing and now admitting that they had sworn to such a policy, are complaining of atrocities, and demanding acknowledgments and disavowals on the part of the very men you went forth sworn to slay whenever in your power. I will in all candor and truth say to you that I had only heard these things, but did not believe them to be true; at any rate, to the extent of your admission; indeed, I did not attach to them the importance they deserved, nor did I know of the threatened vengeance, as proclaimed along their lines of march, until the contest was over. Had I and my men known it as you admit it, the battle of Tishomingo Creek would have been noted as the bloodiest battle of the war. That you sanctioned this policy is plain, for you say now "that if the negro is treated as a prisoner of war you will receive with pleasure the announcement, and will explain the fact to your colored troops at once, and desire (not order) that they recall the oath; but if they are either to be slaughtered or returned to slavery, let the oath stand."

Your rank forbids a doubt as to the fact that you and every officer and man of your department is identified with this policy and responsible for it, and I shall not permit you, notwithstanding, by your studied language in both your communications, you seek to limit the operations of your unholy scheme and visit its terrible consequences alone upon that ignorant, deluded, but unfortunate people, the negro, whose destruction you are planning in order to accomplish ours. The negroes have our sympathy, and so far as consistent with safety will spare them at the expense of those who are alone responsible for the inauguration of a worse than savage warfare.

Now, in conclusion, I demand a plain, unqualified answer to two questions, and then I have done with further correspondence with you on this subject. This matter must be settled. In battle and on the battle-field, do you intend to slaughter my men who fall into your hands? If you do not intend to do so, will they be treated as prisoners of war? I have over 2,000 of Sturgis' command prisoners, and will hold every officer and private as hostage until I receive your declarations and am satisfied that you carry out in good faith the answers you make, and until I am assured that no Confederate soldier has been foully dealt with from the day of the battle at Tishomingo Creek to this time. It is not yet too late for you to retrace your steps and arrest the storm.

Relying as I do upon that Divine Power which in wisdom disposes of all things; relying also upon the support and approval of my Government and countrymen, and the unflinching bravery and endurance of my troops, and with a consciousness that I have done nothing to produce, but all in my power consistent with honor and the personal safety of myself and command to prevent it, I leave with you the responsibility of bringing about, to use your own language, "a state of affairs too fearful for contemplation."

I am, general, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

[Sub-inclosure No. 1.]

CAHABA HOSPITAL, CAHABA, ALA.,
*May* 11, 1864.

Col. H. C. DAVIS,
*Commanding Post, Cahaba:*

COLONEL: I herewith transmit you, as near as my memory serves me, according to promise, the demand made by Major-General Forrest, C. S. Army, for the surrender of Fort Pillow, Tenn.:

Major BOOTH,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Fort Pillow, Tenn.:*

I have force sufficient to take your works by assault. I therefore demand an unconditional surrender of all your forces. Your heroic defense will entitle you to be treated as prisoners of war, but the surrender must be unconditional. I await your answer.

FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Fort Pillow, Tenn., April* 12, 1864.

Major-General FORREST,
*Commanding Confederate Forces:*

GENERAL: Your demand for the surrender of the U. S. forces under my command received. I ask one hour for consultation with my officers and the commander of gun-boat No. 7 at this place.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

L. F. BOOTH,
*Major, Commanding U. S. Forces.*

Maj. L. F. BOOTH,
*Commanding U. S. Forces:*

I do not demand the surrender of gun-boat No. 7; I ask only for the surrender of Fort Pillow, with men and munitions of war. You have twenty minutes for consideration; at the expiration of that time, if you do not capitulate, I will assault your works.

Your obedient servant,

FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Fort Pillow, Tenn., April* 12, 1864.

Major-General FORREST,
*Commanding Confederate Forces:*

GENERAL: Your second demand for the surrender of my forces received. The demand will not be complied with.

Your obedient servant,

L. F. BOOTH,
*Major. Commanding U. S. Forces, Fort Pillow.*

I give you the above, for your own satisfaction, from memory. I think it is true in substance. My present condition would preclude the idea of this being an official statement.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN T. YOUNG,
*Captain Company A, Twenty-fourth Missouri Infantry.*

[Sub-inclosure No. 2.]

CAHABA, ALA.,
*May* 16, 1864.

I was one of the bearers of the flag of truce on the part of the U. S. authorities at Fort Pillow. A majority of the officers of garrison

doubted whether General Forrest was present, and had the impression that it was a ruse to induce the surrender of the fort. At the second meeting of the flag of truce General Forrest announced himself as being General Forrest, but the officers who accompanied the flag, being unacquainted with the general, doubted his word, and it was the opinion of the garrison at the time of the assault that General Forrest was not in the vicinity of the fort. The commanding officer refused to surrender. When the final assault was made I was captured at my post inside the works, and have been treated as a prisoner of war.

JOHN T. YOUNG,
*Captain, Twenty-fourth Missouri Volunteers.*

[Sub-inclosure No. 3.]

CAHABA, ALA.,
*May* 19, 1864.

Major-General FORREST,
*C. S. Army:*

GENERAL: Your request, made through Judge P. T. Scruggs, that I should make a statement as to the treatment of Federal dead and wounded at Fort Pillow, has been made known to me. Details from Federal prisoners were made to collect the dead and wounded. The dead were buried by their surviving comrades. I saw no ill-treatment of the wounded on the evening of the battle, or next morning. My friend, Lieutenant Leaming, adjutant Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, was left under the sutler's store [near the fort*]; also a lieutenant of Sixth U. S. Artillery; both were alive next morning and sent on board U. S. transport, among many other wounded. Among the wounded were some colored troops. I do not know how many.

I have examined a report said to be made by Captain Anderson, aide-de-camp to Major-General Forrest, appendix to General Forrest's report, in regard to making disposition of Federal wounded left on the field at Fort Pillow, and think it is correct. I accompanied Captain Anderson on the day succeeding the battle to Fort Pillow, for the purpose above mentioned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN T. YOUNG,
*Captain, Twenty-fourth Missouri Volunteers.*

[Sub-inclosure No. 4.]

EXTRACTS FROM CAPTAIN ANDERSON'S REPORT.

It is useless to go into minute details as to the movements of our troops, position, &c., prior to the final assault. It is only necessary to say that after skirmishing and fighting from early morning until 1 o'clock, the enemy was driven from all his positions to the main fortifications erected on the bluff of the river. On the declining ground from the fort to a ravine, which nearly encircles the fort, our lines were formed extending from Coal Creek on the right to the landing on bank of the Mississippi River on the left, varying in distance from 50 to 150 yards of the works. The width or thickness of the works across the top prevented the garrison from firing down on

*According to Lee's copy. See p. 606.

us, as it could only be done by mounting and exposing themselves to unerring aim of our sharpshooters, posted behind stumps and logs on all the neighboring hills. They were also unable to depress their artillery so as to rake these slopes with grape and canister, and so far as safety was concerned, we were as well fortified as they were; the only difference was that they were on one side and we on the other of the same fortification. They had no sharpshooters with which to annoy our main force, while ours sent a score of bullets at every head that appeared above the walls.

Our heaviest loss was in gaining this position, and when gained it was perfectly apparent to any man endowed with the smallest amount of common sense, that to all intents and purposes the fort was ours. We were entirely around it, with a detachment of Barteau's regiment on the right and rear, and about three companies of McCulloch's command in an old rifle-pit (made, I presume, to protect the water batteries below) on the left and rear.

General Forrest, desiring to prevent the further effusion of blood or loss of life, sent up a flag of truce demanding the unconditional surrender of the fort.

I give the correspondence as copied from the originals now in my possession:

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*Before Fort Pillow, April* 12, 1864.

Major BOOTH,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Fort Pillow:*

MAJOR: The conduct of the officers and men garrisoning Fort Pillow has been such as to entitle them to being treated as prisoners of war. I demand the unconditional surrender of the [entire*] garrison, promising that you shall be treated as prisoners of war. My men have [just*] received a fresh supply of ammunition, and from their present position can easily assault and capture the fort. Should my demand be refused, I cannot be responsible for the fate of your command.

Respectfully,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Fort Pillow, April* 12, 1864.

General FORREST,
*Commanding C. S. Forces:*

SIR: I respectfully ask one hour for consultation with my officers and the officers of the gun-boat. In the mean time no preparation to be made on either side.

Very respectfully,

L. F. BOOTH.
*Major, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY.
*Before Fort Pillow, April* 12, 1864.

Maj. L. F. BOOTH,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Fort Pillow:*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note, asking one hour to consider my demand for your surrender. Your request cannot be granted. I will allow you twenty minutes from the receipt of this note for consideration; if at the expiration of that time the fort is not surrendered, I shall assault it.† I do not demand the surrender of the gun-boat.

Very respectfully,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

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*According to Forrest's copy. See p. 614.

† In Forrest's copy this sentence reads: "I will allow you twenty minutes from the receipt of this note; if the fort is not surrendered at the expiration of that time, I shall assault it."

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Fort Pillow, April* 12, 1864.

General FORREST,
*Commanding C. S. Forces:*

I [we *] will not surrender.

Very respectfully,

L. F. BOOTH,
*Major, Commanding.*

As all negotiations for a surrender proved unavailing, the major-general commanding gave orders to prepare for the assault. The time expired, and the bugle sounded the charge. Our brave troops dashed forward with a yell, and in less than twenty minutes firing had ceased, the work was done, and half the garrison lay weltering in their blood.

It is an easy matter to account for the loss of life at Fort Pillow when you understand the position of our forces and the ground they occupied. In making the assault our troops, being without bayonets, reserved their fire. As they dashed toward the fort one deafening roar of artillery and a volley of musketry greeted them, and as they mounted the works another volley greeted them, and the enemy disappeared under the brink of the bluff. As they descended the detachment from Barteau on the right and the three companies on the left poured into them an enfilading and deadly fire, at a distance of 40 to 100 yards. The assaulting line in the mean time had gained the brow and mowed down their rear.

For the survivors it was also a fortunate occurrence that some of our men cut the halyards and pulled down their flag, floating from a high mast in the center of the fort. Until this was done our forces under the bluff had no means of knowing or reason for believing that the fort was in our possession, as they could from their position see the flag but could not see the fort.

The unwounded of the garrison were detailed, under the supervision of their own officers, to bury the dead and remove the wounded to the hospitals, tents, and buildings, under orders from General Forrest. I took with me Captain Young, a Federal officer, and endeavored to deliver a message, copy of which I here give:

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY.
*Fort Pillow, April* 12, 1864.

Captain MARSHALL,
*Commanding Gun-Boat No. 7, U. S. Navy:*

SIR: My aide-de-camp, Capt. Charles W. Anderson, is fully authorized to negotiate with you for the delivery of the wounded of the [Federal *] garrison at this place [upon your own or any other U. S. vessel *] on board your vessel.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

We searched for a skiff or a small boat to go out to the vessel, but without success. Captain Young tried, by walking along shore and waving a white flag, to induce the vessel to send her boat ashore. Whether she saw our flag or was afraid to send her boat Captain Marshall alone can answer, as she soon steamed out of sight.

The burial of the dead continued until dark. On the next morning I was again sent to the fort by the major-general commanding, and refer you to my official report. (Copy of report marked A; correspondence with vessel, B.)

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*According to Forrest's copy. See p. 616.

[Sub-inclosure No. 5.]

A.

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*Jackson, Tenn., April* 17, 1864.

Maj. J. P. STRANGE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

MAJOR: Having been ordered by the major-general commanding on the morning succeeding the battle at Fort Pillow (13th instant) to return to the fort and make some disposition of the wounded Federals, and to see that the dead were buried, &c., I took with me 3 men of the escort, and when within 2 miles of the fort I met with General Chalmers and asked his permission to take with me Captain Young, a captured Federal officer, whose presence I thought would assist me in obtaining the delivery of a message to the officers commanding the gun-boats, who were then engaged in shelling the hills around the fort.

On nearing the river [bluff*] I raised the white flag and proceeded immediately [directly*] to the bank of the river. The firing ceased, and the officer on deck asked what was [we*] wanted. He was requested to send his small boat ashore, which he did. Ascertaining the name of the officer in command, as well as the name of the vessel, I sent him the communication marked A, hereto appended, and in a short time received the reply marked B. After its delivery to me the vessel hauled down the U. S. colors, ran up a white flag, and landed. Details were immediately sent out to bring in the wounded, a list of them being taken as they were passed aboard the vessel, a copy of which, with the acknowledgment of the agreement and receipt of the commanding officer of the gun-boat, is appended, marked C.

About 10 a. m. several transports and gun-boats, both upward and downward bound, approached, and leave was asked to land one of the transports for the purpose of placing the wounded on her, which would save the necessity of their being again transferred. A message from another was also received asking permission to land, as she had on board the families of some of the officers and men of the fort and desired to know their fate. Believing it proper and right in both cases that the request should be granted, I drew up an article, which was signed by Acting Master Ferguson and myself, in which it was stipulated that the flag of truce should remain in full force and effect until 5 p. m.; that all Confederate troops should be withdrawn to the outer works in order to give those interested in the burial of the dead and removal of the wounded an opportunity of doing so without a chance of molestation. This agreement was submitted to and approved of by General Chalmers, after which the vessels were permitted to land, and all who desired to do so visited the fort, and extra details were sent out for the wounded. A detail sent down by Brigadier-General Chalmers to bury the remaining dead were near the fort when I reached there. The officer reported that he was unable to perform the duty owing to the constant fire of the gun-boat, which prevented them from approaching the river. The work was completed by 4 o'clock, when I withdrew my flag to the top of the bluff and proceeded to burn all unconsumed houses and tents

*According to Forrest's copy. See p. 616.

around the fort. The Silver Cloud rounded out, and when three-quarters of a mile below the fort lowered the white flag, ran up U. S. colors, and was soon out of sight.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. W. ANDERSON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

B.

A.

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*Fort Pillow, April* 13, 1864.

Acting Master W. FERGUSON,
*Commanding U. S. Steamer Silver Cloud:*

SIR: I am directed [authorized*] by Major-General Forrest to say that he desires to place the badly wounded of your army on board of your boat, provided you will acknowledge their paroles. I shall send all, white or black, who desire to go.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. W. ANDERSON,
*Aide-de-Camp.*

B.

U. S. STEAMER SILVER CLOUD,
*Off Fort Pillow, April* 13, 1864.

Capt. C. W. ANDERSON,
*Bearer of Flag of Truce:*

SIR: I accept your flag [of truce*], and will land my vessel accordingly.

Respectfully,

W. FERGUSON,
*Acting Master, Comdg. U. S. Steamer Silver Cloud.*

C.

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY DEPARTMENT,
*Fort Pillow, April* 13, 1864.

Referring to the copy of communication attached, the following-named officers and privates† are acknowledged to have been received under the proposition made, and their parole is hereby acknowledged.

I hereby acknowledge to have received from Major-General Forrest 2 first and 1 second lieutenants, 43 white privates, and 14 negroes.

W. FERGUSON,
*Acting Master, Comdg. U. S. Steamer Silver Cloud.*

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT ALA., MISS., AND EAST LA.,
*Meridian, June* 28, 1864.

Maj. Gen. C. C. WASHBURN,
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Memphis, Tenn.:*

GENERAL: I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and have also before me the reply of Major-General Forrest thereto.

* According to Forrest's copy. See p. 616.
† Nominal list omitted.

Though that reply is full and is approved by me, yet I deem it proper to communicate with you upon a subject so seriously affecting our future conduct and that of the troops under our respective commands.

Your communication is by no means respectful to me, and is, by implication, insulting to Major-General Forrest. This, however, is overlooked in consideration of the important character of its contents. You assume as correct an exaggerated statement of the circumstances attending the capture of Fort Pillow, relying solely upon the evidence of those who would naturally give a distorted history of the affair. No demand for an explanation has ever been made either by yourself or your Government, a course which would certainly recommend itself to every one desirous of hearing truth, but on the contrary, you seem to have been perfectly willing to allow your soldiers to labor under false impressions upon a subject involving such terrible consequences. Even the formality of parades and oaths have been resorted to for the purpose of inciting your colored troops to the perpetration of deeds of which you say "will lead to consequences too fearful to contemplate."

As commanding officer of this department I desire to make the following statement concerning the capture of Fort Pillow, a statement supported in a great measure by the evidence of one of your own officers captured at that place:

The version given by you and your Government is untrue, and not sustained by the facts to the extent that you indicate. The garrison was summoned in the usual manner, and its commanding officer assumed the responsibility of refusing to surrender, after having been informed by General Forrest of his ability to take the fort, and of his fears as to what the result would be in case the demand was not complied with. The assault was made under a heavy fire and with considerable loss to the attacking party. Your colors were never lowered, and your garrison never surrendered, but retreated from the fort to the cover of the gun-boats* with arms in their hands, and constantly using them. This was true, particularly of your colored troops, who had been firmly convinced by your teachings of the certainty of their slaughter in case of capture. Even under these circumstances many of your men, white and black, were taken prisoners.

I respectfully refer you to history for numerous cases of indiscriminate slaughter [after successful assault †], even under less aggravated circumstances. It is generally conceded by all military precedent that where the issue has been fairly presented and the ability displayed, fearful results are expected to follow a refusal to surrender. The case under consideration is almost an extreme one. You had a servile race, armed against their masters and in a country which had been desolated by almost unprecedented outrages.

I assert that our officers, with all these circumstances against them, endeavored to prevent the effusion of blood, and as an evidence of this I refer you to the fact that both white and colored prisoners were taken, and are now in our hands.

As regards the battle of Tishomingo Creek, the statements of your negro witnesses are not to be relied on. In their panic they acted as might have been expected from their previous impressions. I do not

*In Lee's copy (see p. 606) this reads, "but retreated under cover of a gunboat."
†According to Lee's copy.

think many of them were killed. They are yet wandering over the country, attempting to return to their masters. With reference to the status of those captured at Tishomingo Creek and Fort Pillow, I will state that, unless otherwise ordered by my Government, they will not be regarded as prisoners of war, but will be retained and humanely treated, subject to such future instructions as may be indicated.

Your letter contains many implied threats. These you can of course make, and you are fully entitled to any satisfaction that you may feel from having made them. It is my intention, and that also of my subordinate officers, to conduct this war upon civilized principles, provided you permit us to do so, and I take this occasion to state that we will not shrink from any responsibilities that your actions may force upon us. We are engaged in a struggle for the protection of our homes and firesides, for the maintenance of our national existence and liberty. We have counted the cost and are prepared to go to any extremes, and although it is far from our wish to fight under the black flag, still if you drive us to it we will accept the issue. Your troops virtually fought under it at the battle of Tishomingo Creek, and the prisoners taken there state that they went into battle under the impression that they were to [would*] receive no quarter, and, I suppose, with the determination to give none. I will further remark that if it is raised, so far as your soldiers are concerned, there can be no distinction, for the unfortunate people whom you pretend to be aiding are not considered entirely responsible for their acts, influenced as they are by the superior intellect of their white brothers.

I inclose for your consideration certain papers† touching the Fort Pillow affair, which were procured from the writer after the exaggerated statements of your press were seen.

I am, general. yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Lieutenant-General.*

[Inclosure No. 4.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., July 2, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. N. B. FORREST,
*Commanding Confederate Forces, near Tupelo:*

GENERAL: Your communications of the 20th and 23d ultimo are received. Of the tone and temper of both I do not complain. The desperate fortunes of a bad cause excuse much irritation of temper, and I pass it by. Indeed, I receive it as a favorable augury and as evidence that you are not indifferent to the opinions of the civilized world.

In regard to the Fort Pillow affair, it is useless to prolong the discussion. I shall forward your report, which you did me the favor to inclose, to my Government, and you will receive the full benefit of it. The record is now made up, and a candid world will judge of it. I beg leave to send you, herewith, a copy of the report of the investigating committee from the U. S. Congress on the affair.

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*According to Lee's copy instead of the words "were to."
†See statements of Captain Young, pp. 594, 595.

In regard to the treatment of Major Bradford, I refer you to the testimony contained in that report, from which you will see that he was not attempting to escape when shot. It will be easy to bring the perpetrators of the outrage to justice if you so desire. I will add to what I have heretofore said, that I have it from responsible and truthful citizens of Brownsville, that when Major Bradford was started under an escort for your headquarters at Jackson, General Chalmers remarked that he "would never reach there." You call attention apparently as an offset to this affair of Major Bradford to outrages said to have been committed by Col. Fielding Hurst and others of his regiment (Sixth Tennessee Cavalry). The outrages, if committed as stated by you, are disgraceful and abhorrent to every brave and sensitive mind. On receiving your letter, I sent at once for Colonel Hurst, and read him the extract pertaining to him. He indignantly denies the charge against him, and until you furnish me the names of the parties murdered, and the time when, and the place where, the offense was committed, with names of witnesses, it is impossible for me to act. When you do that, you may rest assured that I shall use every effort in my power to have the parties accused tried, and, if found guilty, properly punished.

In regard to the treatment of colored soldiers, it is evidently useless to discuss the question further. Your attempt to shift from yourself upon me the responsibility of the inauguration of a "worse than savage warfare," is too strained and far-fetched to require any response. The full and cumulative evidence contained in the Congressional report I herewith forward, points to you as the person responsible for the barbarisms already committed. It was your soldiers who at Fort Pillow raised the black flag, and while shooting, bayoneting, and otherwise maltreating the Federal prisoners in their hands, shouted to each other in the hearing of their victims that it was done by "Forrest's orders." Thus far, I cannot learn that you have made any disavowal of these barbarities. Your letters to me inform me confidently that you have always treated our prisoners according to the rules of civilized warfare, but your disavowal of the Fort Pillow barbarities, if you intend to make any, should be full, clear, explicit, and published to the world. The United States Government is, as it always has been, lenient and forbearing, and it is not yet too late for you to secure for yourself and soldiers a continuance of the treatment due to honorable warriors, by a public disclaimer of barbarities already committed, and a vigorous effort to punish the wretches who committed them. But I say to you now, clearly and unequivocally, that such measure of treatment as you mete out to Federal soldiers will be measured to you again. If you give no quarter, you must expect none; if you observe the rules of civilized warfare, and treat our prisoners in accordance with the laws of war, your prisoners will be treated, as they ever have been, with kindness. If you depart from these principles, you may expect such retaliation as the laws of war justify. That you may know what the laws of war are, as understood by my Government, I beg leave to inclose a copy of General Orders, No. 100, from the War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, April 24, 1863.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, yours,

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure No. 5.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., July* 3, 1864.

Lieut. Gen. S. D. LEE, C. S. Army,
*Comdg. Dept. Ala., Miss., and E. La., Meridian, Miss.:*

GENERAL: Your letter of the 28th ultimo, in reply to mine of the 17th ultimo, is received.

The discourtesy which you profess to discover in my letter I utterly disclaim. Having already discussed at length in a correspondence with Major-General Forrest the Fort Pillow massacre, as well as the policy to be pursued in regard to colored troops, I do not regard it necessary to say more on those subjects. As you state that you fully approve of the letter sent by General Forrest to me, in answer to mine of the 17th ultimo, I am forced to presume that you fully approve of his action at Fort Pillow. Your arguments in support of that action confirm such presumption. You state that the version given by me and my Government is not true, and not sustained by the facts to the extent I indicate. You furnish a statement of a certain Captain Young, who was captured at Fort Pillow, and is now a prisoner in your hands. How far a statement of a person under duress and in the position of Captain Young should go to disprove the sworn testimony of the hundred eye-witnesses who had ample opportunity of seeing and knowing I am willing that others shall judge. In relying as you do upon the certificate of Captain Young, you confess that all better resources are at an end. You are welcome to all the relief that that certificate is calculated to give you. Does he say that our soldiers were not inhumanly treated? No. Does he say that he was in a position to see in case they had been mistreated? No. He simply says that he "saw no ill-treatment of their wounded." If he was in a position to see and know what took place, it was easy for him to say so.

I yesterday sent to Major-General Forrest a copy of the report of the Congressional Investigating Committee, and I hope it may fall into your hands. You will find there the record of inhuman atrocities, to find a parallel for which you will search the page of history in vain. Men (white men and black men) were crucified and burned; others were hunted by bloodhounds, while others in their anguish were made the sport of men more cruel than the dogs by which they were hunted. I have also sent to my Government copies of General Forrest's reports, together with the certificate of Captain Young. The record in the case is plainly made up, and I leave it. You justify and approve it, and appeal to history for precedents.

As I have said, history furnishes no parallels. True, there are instances where after a long and protracted resistance resulting in heavy loss to the assailing party, the garrison has been put to the sword; but I know of no such instance that did not bring dishonor upon the commanders that ordered or suffered it. There is no Englishman that would not gladly forget Badajos, nor a Frenchman that exults when Jaffa or the caves of Dahla and Shelas are spoken of. The massacre of Glencoe, which the world has read of with horror for nearly two hundred years, pales into insignificance before the truthful recital of Fort Pillow. The desperate defense of the Alamo was the excuse for the slaughter of its brave survivors after its surrender; yet that act was received with just execration, and we are told by the historian that it led, more than anything else, to the independence of Texas. At the battle of San Jacinto, the Texans

rushed into action with the war-cry, "Remember the Alamo!" and carried all before them. You will seek in vain for consolation in history, pursue the inquiry as far as you may. Your desire to shift the responsibility of the Fort Pillow massacre, or to find excuses for it, is not strange. But the responsibility still remains where it belongs, and there it will remain.

In my last letter to General Forrest I stated that the treatment which Federal soldiers received would be their guide hereafter, and that if you give no quarter you need expect none. If you observe the rules of civilized warfare I shall rejoice at it, as no one can regret more than myself a resort to such measures as the laws of war justify toward an enemy that gives no quarter. Your remark that our colored soldiers "will not be regarded as prisoners of war, but will be retained and humanely treated," indicating that you consider them as of more worth and importance than your own soldiers who are now in our hands, is certainly very complimentary to our colored troops, though but a tardy acknowledgment of their bravery and devotion as soldiers; but such fair words can neither do justice to the colored soldiers who were butchered at Fort Pillow after they had surrendered to their victors, nor relieve yourself, General Forrest, and the troops serving under you from the fearful responsibility now resting upon you for those wanton and unparalleled barbarities. I concur in your remark that if the black flag is once raised there can be no distinction so far as our soldiers are concerned. No distinction in this regard as to color is known to the laws of war, and you may rest assured that the outrages we complain of are felt by our white soldiers, no less than by our black ones, as insults to their common banner, the flag of the United States.

I will close by a reference to your statement that many of our colored soldiers "are yet wandering over the country attempting to return to their masters." If this remark is intended as a joke, it is acknowledged as a good one, but if stated as a fact, permit me to correct your misapprehensions by informing you that most of them have rejoined their respective commands, their search for their late "masters" having proved bootless; and I think I do not exaggerate in assuring you that there is not a colored soldier here who does not prefer the fate of his comrades at Fort Pillow to being returned to his "master."

I remain, general, yours, very respectfully,

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General.*

*ADDENDA.*

MEMPHIS, TENN.,
*September* 13, 1864.

Maj. Gen. C. C. WASHBURN,
*Commanding District West Tennessee:*

GENERAL: I have the honor to address you in regard to certain papers* forwarded you by Major-General Forrest, of the so-called Confederate army, signed by me under protest while a prisoner of war at Cahaba, Ala.:

I would first call your attention to the manner by which those papers were procured about 27th April last. All Federal prisoners (except colored soldiers) were sent to Andersonville and Macon, Ga., myself among the number. About ten days after my arrival at

*See pp. 594, 595.

Macon prison, a Confederate captain, with 2 men as guard, came to that prison with an order for me to return to Cahaba. I appealed to the officer in command to know why I was taken from the other officers, but received no explanation. Many of my friends among the Federal officers who had been prisoners longer than myself felt uneasy at the proceeding, and advised me to make my escape going back, as it was likely a subject of retaliation. Consequently I felt considerable uneasiness of mind. On returning to Cahaba, being quite unwell, I was placed in hospital under guard, with still no explanation from the military authorities. On the day following I was informed by a sick Federal officer, also in hospital, that he had learned that I had been recognized by some Confederate as a deserter from the Confederate army, and that I was to be court-martialed and shot. The colored waiters about the hospital told me the same thing, and although I knew that the muster-rolls of my country would show that I had been in the volunteer service since 1st of May, 1861, I still felt uneasy, having fresh in my mind Fort Pillow, and the summary manner the Confederate officers have of disposing of men on some occasions.

With the above impressions on my mind, about three days after my return to Cahaba I was sent for by the provost-marshal, and certain papers handed me, made out by General Forrest, for my signature. Looking over the papers I found that signing them would be an indorsement of General Forrest's official report of the Fort Pillow affair. I, of course, returned the papers, positively refusing to have anything to do with them. I was sent for again the same day with request to sign other papers of the same tendency, but modified. I again refused to sign the papers but sent General Forrest a statement, that although I considered some of the versions of the Fort Pillow affair which I had read in their own papers exaggerated (said to be copies from Federal papers), I also thought that his own official report was equally so in some particulars. Here the matter rested about one week, when I was sent for by Col. H. C. Davis, commander of post at Cahaba, who informed me that General Forrest had sent Judge P. T. Scruggs to see me and have a talk with me about the Fort Pillow fight. I found the judge very affable, and rather disposed to flatter me. He said that General Forrest thought that I was a gentleman and a soldier, and that the general had sent him (the judge) down to see me and talk to me about the Fort Pillow fight. He then went on to tell over a great many things that were testified to before the military commission which I was perfectly ignorant of, never having seen the testimony. He then produced papers which General Forrest wished me to sign. Upon examination I found them about the same as those previously shown me, and refused again to sign them; but the judge was very importunate and finally prevailed on me to sign the papers you have in your possession, pledging himself that if I wished it they should only be seen by General Forrest himself; that they were not intended to be used by him as testimony, but merely for his own satisfaction.

I hope, general, that these papers signed by me, or rather extorted from me while under duress, will not be used by my Government to my disparagement, for my only wish now is, after over three years' service, to recruit my health, which has suffered badly by imprisonment, and go in for the war.

I have the honor, general, to be your obedient servant,

JOHN T. YOUNG,

*Captain Company A, Twenty-fourth Missouri Infantry.*

No. 25.

*Reports of Lieut. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, of the capture of Fort Pillow, etc.*

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT ALA., MISS., AND EAST LA.,
*Meridian, Miss., May 27, 1864.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward herewith, by Col. T. W. White, Ninth Mississippi Regiment, 1 flag captured from the enemy at Union City, Tenn., and 4 garrison flags and 8 guidons captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., all by Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest's cavalry command in April last.

It would be superfluous for me here to advert to the skill and gallantry displayed by Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest and the officers and men under his command in the engagements above referred to, in which such a handsome addition has been made to the trophies we have wrested from the enemy. Few cavalry raids have been productive of such brilliant results to our arms or of such disastrous discomfiture to the enemy as that which has rendered famous the expedition whence General Forrest's command has just returned. I will direct that Union City and Fort Pillow be inscribed on the colors of those organizations which distinguished themselves in these engagements.

I am, general, yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Major-General, Commanding Department.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjt. and Insp. Gen., C. S. Army, Richmond, Va.*

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HDQRS. DEPARTMENT ALA., MISS., AND EAST LA.,
*Meridian, Miss., June 30, 1864.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit copies of correspondence between General Washburn, U. S. Army, General Forrest, and myself, which I consider very important and should be laid before the Department.* It will be my endeavor to avoid, as far as is consistent with my idea of the dignity of my position, resorting to such an extremity as the black flag, and the onus shall be with the Federal commander. I would like that the onus be put where it properly belongs—before the public—should the extremity arise. The correspondence is not complete yet, and the Department will be informed of the result at the earliest practicable moment.

I am, general, yours, respectfully,

S. D. LEE,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjt. and Insp. Gen., Richmond, Va.*

[First indorsement.]

JULY 28, 1864.

Respectfully submitted for the information of the President, who will probably be interested to see the grounds taken by our officers concerning the affair at Fort Pillow and the treatment of negro troops.

* Inclosures omitted. See Washburn to Townsend, June 20 and July 6, 1864, pp. 586, 590.

The implied admissions of the Federal generals are infamous, and are properly exposed, especially in General Forrest's second letter, which, though neither elegant nor strictly grammatical, is better, being very much to the point and in the true spirit. The correspondence on the part of our officers meets my approval, and, I trust, with yours.

J. A. SEDDON,
*Secretary.*

[Second indorsement.]

JULY 30, 1864.

Returned to the Secretary of War.

The tone of the correspondence on the part of our officers is approved. Much misrepresentation of events connected with the capture of Fort Pillow has been thrown upon the world in the form of a report of a select committee of the two houses of the United States Congress. It is due to our Government that the truth should be sent out to correct the false impression extensively created. It might be well to have at least a part of these communications published, but they are susceptible of many useful additions to the testimony they contain. You will observe frequent and obvious errors, probably due to the copyists; the sense, however, is perceptible.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

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No. 26.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry.*

DRESDEN, TENN.,
*March 27*, 1864.

GENERAL: Left Jackson on the 23d. Captured Union City on the 24th, with 450 prisoners, among them the renegade Hawkins and most of his regiment, about 200 horses, and 500 small-arms; also took possession of Hickman, the enemy having passed it. I moved now with Buford's division direct from Jackson to Paducah in fifty hours; attacked it on the evening of the 26th; drove the enemy to their gun-boats and forts; held the town for ten hours, and could have held it longer, but found the small-pox was raging and evacuated the place. Captured many stores and horses, burned up sixty bales of cotton, one steamer and the dry-dock, bringing out 50 prisoners.

My loss at Union City and Paducah, as far as known, is 25 killed and wounded, among them Colonel Thompson, commanding Kentucky brigade, killed; Lieutenant-Colonel Lannom, Faulkner's regiment, mortally wounded, and Colonel Crossland, of the Seventh Kentucky, and Lieutenant-Colonel Morton, of the Second Tennessee, slightly wounded.

Enemy's loss in Paducah 50 killed, wounded, and prisoners; in all, 500.

Have dispatched Gholson, at Tupelo, to meet prisoners at Corinth and take them to you.

I hold possession of all this country except posts on the river. Think if I can remain unmolested here fifteen days I will be able to add 2,000 men to my command.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK, *Demopolis.*

DEMOPOLIS, *April* 3, 1864.

The following dispatch just received from General Forrest:

JACKSON, TENN., VIA WATERFORD, *April* 2, 1864.

Six hundred Federal prisoners will arrive at Ripley, Miss., to-day, en route for Demopolis. Colonel Neely engaged Hurst on the 29th of March near Bolivar, capturing his entire wagon train, routing and driving him to Memphis, killing 30, and capturing 35 prisoners, killing 2 captains, and capturing 1.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond.*

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HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY DEPARTMENT,
*Jackson, Tenn., April* 4, 1864.

COLONEL: I desire respectfully and briefly to state that Lieutenant-Colonel Crews, commanding battalion, met the enemy yesterday morning, and after a sharp little engagement repulsed and drove them back to Raleigh. The enemy's force was two regiments of cavalry of Grierson's command. The fight occurred 15 miles east of Raleigh, on Somerville road. Colonel Crews lost 1 man severely and 1 slightly wounded. The enemy had 6 killed and 15 or 20 wounded and 3 prisoners.

In all engagements so far in West Tennessee my loss in the aggregate is 15 killed and 42 wounded. Among the killed Colonel Thompson, commanding Kentucky brigade, whose death was reported to you by telegraph. Lieutenant-Colonel Lannom, of Faulkner's regiment, reported mortally wounded, is, I am glad to say, rapidly recovering.

The loss of the enemy thus far is as follows: 79 killed, 102 wounded, and 612 captured.

I have as far as prudent allowed my troops an opportunity of going home. Am now concentrating and preparing for any move the enemy may make, or for offensive operations, provided they do not move on me. I feel confident of my ability to whip any cavalry they can send against me, and can, if necessary, avoid their infantry. If permitted to remain in West Tennessee, or rather, if it is not the purpose of the lieutenant-general commanding to order me elsewhere until driven out by the enemy, would be glad to have my artillery with me, and will send for it, as I could operate effectively with my rifle battery on the rivers. With the small guns I have here it would be folly to attempt the destruction or capture of boats. I am yet in hopes the lieutenant-general commanding will repair and operate the railroad to Corinth, as suggested in a former letter. I, of course, cannot tell what demands are being made on him for troops, but am clearly of opinion that with a brigade of infantry at Corinth as a force upon which I could fall back if too hard pressed, that I can hold West Tennessee against three times my numbers, and could send rapidly out from here all conscripts and deserters for service in infantry. At present it is impracticable, as I am without the transportation necessary to supply them with rations to Okolona through a country already depleted and whose inhabitants are suffering for food. I find corn scarcer than I had thought, but have plenty of meal, flour, and bacon for troops. If supplied with the right kind of money or cotton can furnish my command with all small-arm ammunition required, and I think with small-arms also.

General Chalmers is here, and will be kept in readiness for any move that may be made from Memphis. General Buford's division is above this, and concentrating at Eaton, 10 miles west of Trenton. As I came up here employed a man to get up lead. He writes me that he has from 8,000 to 10,000 pounds at Corinth, which I shall send out as soon as possible, and will continue to get up all that can be had. There is a Federal force of 500 or 600 at Fort Pillow, which I shall attend to in a day or two, as they have horses and supplies which we need. There are about 6,000 troops now at Memphis ; all else gone up the river. It is clear that they are concentrating all their available force before Richmond and at Chattanooga. They have attempted to send their cavalry across the country to Pulaski, Tenn. Have driven them back and hope yet to be able to make them take water. I have ordered everything belonging to my command at Columbus moved up to Aberdeen, and Morton's battery up to Tupelo to report to General Gholson, and shall bring it on here unless ordered to the contrary, as the little guns I have are of no use to me. You will please send any orders or dispatches for me through General Gholson, at Tupelo.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. THOMAS M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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JACKSON, TENN.,
*April* 15, 1864.

GENERAL: I attacked Fort Pillow on the morning of the 12th instant with a part of Bell's and McCulloch's brigades, numbering 1,500, under Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers. After a short fight drove the enemy, 700 strong, into the fort under the cover of their gun-boats. Demanded a surrender, which was declined by Maj. L. F. Booth, commanding U. S. forces. I stormed the fort, and after a contest of thirty minutes captured the entire garrison, killing 500 and taking 200 horses and a large amount of quartermaster's stores. The officers in the fort were killed, including Major Booth. I sustained a loss of 20 killed and 60 wounded. Among the wounded is the gallant Lieut. Col. Wiley M. Reed while leading the Fifth Mississippi. Over 100 citizens who had fled to the fort to escape conscription ran into the river and were drowned. The Confederate flag now floats over the fort.

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

Lieutenant-General POLK,
*Demopolis.*

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HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*Jackson, Tenn., April* 15, 1864.

COLONEL: A dispatch of the 9th instant from the lieutenant-general commanding reached me on the morning of the 13th at Fort Pillow. Orders were issued at once to have the same complied with.

Brigadier-General Chalmers, commanding McCulloch's and Bell's brigades, was ordered to make the necessary preparations for moving to Okolona by way of Abbeville, that being the only route upon which forage could be obtained with facility. Col. J. J. Neely, commanding Richardson's brigade, was ordered to put himself in readiness to report to and follow General Chalmers as early as possible. Brigadier-General Buford, commanding one brigade in Kentucky, is ordered to this point, and will be here by Tuesday next (the 19th), when he will follow on also. They will proceed to Okolona and there report to you. I am in hopes to be able to come on at the same time, but am now suffering from exhaustion, caused by hard riding and bruises received in the late engagement. I will leave Colonel Duckworth's regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel Crews' battalion for the purpose of conscripting the State and holding the guerrillas in check. You will please give such instructions as you may desire to my quartermaster and commissary, whom I ordered to remain at Aberdeen, that being a central point. Please communicate your instructions to me or Brigadier-General Chalmers at Okolona. Have dispatched by telegraph of the capture of Fort Pillow.

Arrived there on the morning of the 12th and attacked the place with a portion of McCulloch's and Bell's brigades, numbering about 1,500 men, and after a sharp contest captured the garrison and all of its stores. A demand was made for the surrender, which was refused. The victory was complete, and the loss of the enemy will never be known from the fact that large numbers ran into the river and were shot and drowned. The force was composed of about 500 negroes and 200 white soldiers (Tennessee Tories). The river was dyed with the blood of the slaughtered for 200 yards. There was in the fort a large number of citizens who had fled there to escape the conscript law. Most of these ran into the river and were drowned.

The approximate loss was upward of 500 killed, but few of the officers escaping.

It is hoped that these facts will demonstrate to the Northern people that negro soldiers cannot cope with Southerners. We still hold the fort.

My loss was about 20 killed and about 60 wounded. Among the latter I regret to state Lieut. Col. W. M. Reed, commanding George's regiment. He was shot in three places, and it is feared that his wounds may prove mortal. The country can ill afford to lose the services of so good and brave an officer at this time.

There has been no larger force up the Tennessee River than 1,500 Yankees, who came out to Purdy but were driven back to their boats by one regiment, when they went up to Waterloo and thence across to Athens, Ala. A small squad of about 50 cavalry came across the river, but hearing of our force immediately returned.

I have done but little conscripting from being so constantly employed in operating against the enemy. Large numbers of the Tories have been killed and made away with, and the country is very near free of them. Greenbacks have gone down, and are being refused. Could I but stay here a month would have everything in fine condition. Parties have come up and expressed their willingness to take Confederate money. Kentucky could be placed in the same condition had I the time.

In conclusion, I desire to bring to the notice of the lieutenant-general commanding the great want of artillery, and it is hoped that the guns recently captured will be fitted up and put in such a con-

dition as will enable the battery to move with the command. I have been unable to supply my artillery with horses, from the fact that the captured stock is very inferior and has to supply the place of the horses killed in action. The enemy's navigation of the rivers has been uninterrupted from the want of this important branch of the service, and it is to be hoped that the lieutenant-general commanding will give the matter his earliest attention.

I am, colonel, with respect, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. THOMAS M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*Jackson, Tenn., April* 15, 1864.

DEAR SIR: Having an opportunity of sending a letter direct to Richmond by a friend who leaves here in the morning, and believing that your Excellency would be glad to receive as information a detailed statement of the condition of things in this section, I have taken the liberty of addressing you this communication. North Mississippi, West Tennessee, and Southern Kentucky, west of the Tennessee River, are free from Federal rule and occupation, except by their garrisons at Memphis and Paducah. There may be a small force at Columbus, but my last advices were that the enemy had or intended evacuating it. They look upon Memphis as being the next point of attack, and are reported as having moved all stores and valuables within their fortifications at Fort Pickering.

I am glad to state that in all the engagements I have had with them since I re-entered West Tennessee we have been successful. The bands of guerrillas, horse-thieves, and robbers which infested this region have been broken up and dispersed, and many men heretofore Union in sentiment are openly expressing themselves for the South. There are yet a large number of men in West Tennessee who have avoided the service, and there is but little prospect for adding to our strength by volunteering. Conscription, however, would, I think, give us from 5,000 to 8,000 men, perhaps more. I have not, from constant marches and active operations in the field, been able to do much in conscripting those subject to military duty, but design doing so effectively whenever I can with safety send detachments in all directions to scour the country for deserters and conscripts. My command consists of four small brigades, numbering about 5,000 men, and being in a country entirely surrounded (except at the south) by navigable streams, by which the enemy could gain my rear, it has required constant watchfulness to protect myself against possible movements and act offensively at the same time.

I left Columbus, Miss., on March 16 with Buford's division (without wagons) with five days' cooked rations and 60 rounds of ammunition to the man, and reached this place on the 23d. After resting my horses and preparing more rations moved rapidly northward against Union City and Paducah; captured Union City on the 24th with over 400 prisoners, 200 horses, and several hundred stand of arms.

While the move of a portion of the command was made against Union City, with the balance I moved rapidly on Paducah, drove

the enemy to their boats and fortifications, held the town for ten hours, capturing a large amount of clothing, several hundred horses, a large lot of medical stores for the command, burning a steamer, the dock, and all cotton on the landing. Could have held the place longer, but on account of the prevalence of small-pox in the place thought it prudent to withdraw.

On Monday last I moved against Fort Pillow, and attacked it on Tuesday morning with Chalmers' division. The advance of our troops after getting within the outer works was cautiously and slowly made. The cannonading from the fort and the gun-boats was very heavy and rapid. Having gained the desired position, surrounding the fort with the troops from the river above to its bluff below, a surrender was demanded, which they asked an hour, but were given twenty minutes, to consider. It was held by about 700 white and negro troops. At the expiration of the twenty minutes the fire was renewed, the assault was made, and the works carried without a halt, the men and officers displaying great gallantry and courage. The enemy attempted to retreat to the river, either for protection of gun-boats or to escape, and the slaughter was heavy. There were many Union men who had taken shelter in the fort also, many of whom in their fright leaped into the river and were drowned. It is safe to say that in troops, negroes, and citizens the killed, wounded, and drowned will range from 450 to 500.

My loss is 20 killed and 60 wounded.

After securing all the stores we could remove and the artillery (six pieces) I withdrew my troops and destroyed all the buildings and the works as far as practicable, burying the dead and removing the wounded. The victory was complete, and the conduct of my troops and the officers commanding them shall meet with due attention and mention in my official report.

I am ordered back to Okolona, Miss., by General Polk with my command to meet, in conjunction with General Lee, an anticipated raid through Alabama from Middle Tennessee. It is my opinion that no such raid will be made from Decatur or any point west of there. General Lee has about 7,000 cavalry, and with our forces united a move could be made into Middle Tennessee and Kentucky which would create a diversion of the enemy's forces and enable us to break up his plans, and such an expedition, managed with prudence and executed with rapidity, can be safely made.

I am gratified in being able to say that the capture of Hawkins at Union City, and Bradford at Fort Pillow, with a recent defeat (by Richardson's brigade, of my command) of Colonel Hurst, has broken up the Tennessee Federal regiments in the country. Their acts of oppression, murder, and plunder made them a terror to the whole land. For murders committed I demanded that Fielding Hurst and such of his men as were guilty of murder should be delivered to me, to be dealt with as their offenses required. The demand has been referred to the proper Federal authorities and investigations ordered. Hurst and his command have, as I learn, been sent, in consequence of this demand, to some other locality.

Mr. William McGee, who carries you this, belongs to a Louisiana battery. He is a native of Tennessee, and his relatives and friends are here. He is anxious to change his command and report to me, and if consistent with the good of the service, and it meets your approbation, I should be glad to have him ordered to me for duty,

as I am in great need of competent artillerists. They are required to drill and render efficient as speedily as possible the new men with which our batteries are being filled up.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS,
*President Confederate States of America.*

[First indorsement.]

APRIL 28, 1864.

Referred to General Bragg for his information and remarks upon the suggestions contained herein.

J. D.

[Second indorsement.]

APRIL 28, 1864.

The statement of the strength of this command is very surprising after the verbal reports sent here of the number of men raised in the first visit to West Tennessee. Two of the four brigades were transferred under Brigadier-General Chalmers from General Lee's command, one (Richardson's) was raised by him and Colonel Bell before Forrest went to the department, and one large regiment and one battalion of five companies were sent by me from the Army of Tennessee, and General Polk has assigned three small regiments of Kentucky infantry. But little is left for the men raised by General Forrest. The movement into Middle Tennessee was, and I consider is still, of the utmost importance. The breaking up of the marauding bands of the enemy is very gratifying, if it is not to be followed by similar organizations claiming to be in our service. If Mr. William McGee, General Forrest's messenger, belongs to a Louisiana battery, he is employed by the general without authority, and is one of the cases of men enticed from their commands and employed in violation of orders. He should be arrested and sent to his proper command, and General Forrest made accountable for his unauthorized absence.

BRAXTON BRAGG,
*General.*

APRIL 29, 1864.

Adjutant-General, for his attention and advice.

J. D.

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HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY DEPARTMENT,
*Jackson, Tenn., April 26, 1864.*

COLONEL: I have the honor respectfully to forward you the following report of my engagement with the enemy on the 12th instant at Fort Pillow:

My command consisted of McCulloch's brigade, of Chalmers' division, and Bell's brigade, of Buford's division, both placed for the expedition under the command of Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, who, by a forced march, drove in the enemy's pickets, gained possession of the outer works, and by the time I reached the field, at 10 a. m., had forced the enemy to their main fortifications, situated on the

bluff or bank of the Mississippi River at the mouth of Coal Creek. The fort is an earth-work, crescent shaped, is 8 feet in height and 4 feet across the top, surrounded by a ditch 6 feet deep and 12 feet in width, walls sloping to the ditch but perpendicular inside. It was garrisoned by 700 troops with six pieces of field artillery. A deep ravine surrounds the fort, and from the fort to the ravine the ground descends rapidly. Assuming command, I ordered General Chalmers to advance his lines and gain position on the slope, where our men would be perfectly protected from the heavy fire of artillery and musketry, as the enemy could not depress their pieces so as to rake the slopes, nor could they fire on them with small-arms except by mounting the breast-works and exposing themselves to the fire of our sharpshooters, who, under cover of stumps and logs, forced them to keep down inside the works. After several hours' hard fighting the desired position was gained, not, however, without considerable loss. Our main line was now within an average distance of 100 yards from the fort, and extended from Coal Creek, on the right, to the bluff, or bank, of the Mississippi River on the left.

During the entire morning the gun-boat kept up a continued fire in all directions, but without effect, and being confident of my ability to take the fort by assault, and desiring to prevent further loss of life, I sent, under flag of truce, a demand for the unconditional surrender of the garrison, a copy of which demand is hereto appended, marked No. 1,* to which I received a reply, marked No. 2.* The gun-boat had ceased firing, but the smoke of three other boats ascending the river was in view, the foremost boat apparently crowded with troops, and believing the request for an hour was to gain time for re-enforcements to arrive, and that the desire to consult the officers of the gun-boat was a pretext by which they desired improperly to communicate with her, I at once sent this reply, copy of which is numbered 3,* directing Captain Goodman, assistant adjutant-general of Brigadier-General Chalmers, who bore the flag, to remain until he received a reply or until the expiration of the time proposed.

My dispositions had all been made, and my forces were in a position that would enable me to take the fort with less loss than to have withdrawn under fire, and it seemed to me so perfectly apparent to the garrison that such was the case, that I deemed their [capture] without further bloodshed a certainty. After some little delay, seeing a message delivered to Captain Goodman, I rode up myself to where the notes were received and delivered. The answer was handed me, written in pencil on a slip of paper, without envelope, and was, as well as I remember, in these words: "Negotiations will not attain the desired object." As the officers who were in charge of the Federal flag of truce had expressed a doubt as to my presence, and had pronounced the demand a trick, I handed them back the note saying: "I am General Forrest; go back and say to Major Booth that I demand an answer in plain, unmistakable English. Will he fight or surrender?" Returning to my original position, before the expiration of twenty minutes I received a reply, copy of which is marked No. 4.*

While these negotiations were pending the steamers from below were rapidly approaching the fort. The foremost was the Olive Branch, whose position and movements indicated her intention to

*See inclosures to Washburn's report, pp. 596, 597.

land. A few shots fired into her caused her to leave the shore and make for the opposite. One other boat passed up on the far side of the river, the third one turned back.

The time having expired, I directed Brigadier-General Chalmers to prepare for the assault. Bell's brigade occupied the right, with his extreme right resting on Coal Creek. McCulloch's brigade occupied the left, extending from the center to the river. Three companies of his left regiment were placed in an old rifle-pit on the left and almost in the rear of the fort, which had evidently been thrown up for the protection of sharpshooters or riflemen in supporting the water batteries below. On the right a portion of Barteau's regiment, of Bell's brigade, was also under the bluff and in rear of the fort. I dispatched staff officers to Colonels Bell and McCulloch, commanding brigades, to say to them that I should watch with interest the conduct of the troops; that Missourians, Mississippians, and Tennesseeans surrounded the works, and I desired to see who would first scale the fort. Fearing the gun-boats and transports might attempt a landing, I directed my aide-de-camp, Capt. Charles W. Anderson, to assume command of the three companies on the left and rear of the fort and hold the position against anything that might come by land or water, but to take no part in the assault on the fort. Everything being ready, the bugle sounded the charge, which was made with a yell, and the works carried without a perceptible halt in any part of the line. As our troops mounted and poured into the fortification the enemy retreated toward the river, arms in hand and firing back, and their colors flying, no doubt expecting the gun-boat to shell us away from the bluff and protect them until they could be taken off or re-enforced. As they descended the bank an enfilading and deadly fire was poured into them by the troops under Captain Anderson, on the left, and Barteau's detachment on the right. Until this fire was opened upon them, at a distance varying from 30 to 100 yards, they were evidently ignorant of any force having gained their rear. The regiment who had stormed and carried the fort also poured a destructive fire into the rear of the retreating and now panic-stricken and almost decimated garrison. Fortunately for those of the enemy who survived this short but desperate struggle, some of our men cut the halyards, and the United States flag, floating from a tall mast in the center of the fort, came down. The forces stationed in the rear of the fort could see the flag, but were too far under the bluff to see the fort, and when the flag descended they ceased firing. But for this, so near were they to the enemy that few, if any, would have survived unhurt another volley. As it was, many rushed into the river and were drowned, and the actual loss of life will perhaps never be known, as there were quite a number of refugee citizens in the fort, many of whom were drowned and several killed in the retreat from the fort. In less than twenty minutes from the time the bugles sounded the charge firing had ceased and the work was done. One of the Parrott guns was turned on the gun-boat. She steamed off without replying. She had, as I afterward understood, expended all her ammunition, and was therefore powerless in affording the Federal garrison the aid and protection they doubtless expected of her when they retreated toward the river. Details were made, consisting of the captured Federals and negroes, in charge of their own officers, to collect together and bury the dead, which work continued until dark.

I also directed Captain Anderson to procure a skiff and take with him Captain Young, a captured Federal officer, and deliver to Captain Marshall, of the gun-boat, the message, copy of which is appended and numbered 5.* All the boats and skiffs having been taken off by citizens escaping from the fort during the engagement, the message could not be delivered, although every effort was made to induce Captain Marshall to send his boat ashore by raising a white flag, with which Captain Young walked up and down the river in vain signaling her to come in or send out a boat. She finally moved off and disappeared around the bend above the fort. General Chalmers withdrew his forces from the fort before dark and encamped a few miles east of it.

On the morning of the 13th, I again dispatched Captain Anderson to Fort Pillow for the purpose of placing, if possible, the Federal wounded on board their transports, and report to me on his return the condition of affairs at the river. I respectfully refer you to his report, numbered 6.*

My loss in the engagement was 20 killed and 60 wounded. That of the enemy unknown. Two hundred and twenty-eight were buried on the evening of the battle, and quite a number were buried the next day by details from the gun-boat fleet.

We captured 6 pieces of artillery, viz., two 10-pounder Parrott guns, two 12-pounder howitzers, and two brass 6-pounder guns, and about 350 stand of small-arms. The balance of the small-arms had been thrown in the river. All the small-arms were picked up where the enemy fell or threw them down. A few were in the fort, the balance scattered from the top of the hill to the water's edge.

We captured 164 Federals, 75 negro troops, and about 40 negro women and children, and after removing everything of value as far as able to do so, the warehouses, tents, &c., were destroyed by fire.

Among our severely wounded is Lieut. Col. Wiley M. Reed, assigned temporarily to the command of the Fifth Mississippi Regiment, who fell severely wounded while leading his regiment. When carried from the field he was supposed to be mortally wounded, but hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery. He is a brave and gallant officer, a courteous gentleman, and a consistent Christian minister.

I cannot compliment too highly the conduct of Colonels Bell and McCulloch and the officers and men of their brigades, which composed the forces of Brigadier-General Chalmers. They fought with courage and intrepidity, and without bayonets assaulted and carried one of the strongest fortifications in the country.

On the 15th, at Brownsville, I received orders which rendered it necessary to send General Chalmers, in command of his own division and Bell's brigade, southward; hence I have no official report from him, but will, as soon as it can be obtained, forward a complete list of our killed and wounded, which has been ordered made out and forwarded at the earliest possible moment.

In closing my report I desire to acknowledge the prompt and energetic action of Brigadier-General Chalmers, commanding the forces around Fort Pillow. His faithful execution of all movements necessary to the successful accomplishment of the object of the expedition entitles him to special mention. He has reason to be proud

* See inclosures to Washburn's report, pp. 597, 598.

of the conduct of the officers and men of his command for their gallantry and courage in assaulting and carrying the enemy's work without the assistance of artillery or bayonets.

To my staff, as heretofore, my acknowledgments are due for their prompt and faithful delivery of all orders.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

[Lieut. Col. THOMAS M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*]

[First indorsement.]

AUGUST 1, 1864.

Respectfully referred to General Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General.

These papers were found among papers of Lieutenant-General Polk and forwarded by his aide, Lieutenant Gale.

By order of President:

WM. PRESTON JOHNSTON,
*Colonel and Aide-de-Camp.*

[Second indorsement.]

AUGUST 7, 1864.

Respectfully submitted to the President, who will not be surprised to see the groundlessness of the misrepresentations so industriously circulated by our unscrupulous enemies respecting the merciless conduct of our troops on that occasion.

J. A. SEDDON,
*Secretary.*

[Third indorsement.]

AUGUST 10, 1864.

SECRETARY OF WAR:

It would be well to have the report and accompanying papers published in refutation of the slanders which have been promulgated by the Government of the enemy in relation to the conduct of our gallant and humane soldiers. Instead of cruelty, General Forrest, it appears, exhibited forbearance and clemency far exceeding the usage of war under like circumstances.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

*ADDENDA.*

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*Tupelo, Miss., May* 16, 1864.

Maj. Gen. S. D. LEE,
*Demopolis, Ala.:*

GENERAL: So much has been said by the Northern press in regard to the engagement at Fort Pillow that, at the suggestion of Colonel Brent and others, I have sent Judge Scruggs down for the purpose of conversing with, and procuring the statements of, Captain Young and other Federal officers in regard to the matter. They are survivors of the so-called massacre, and Captain Young, who received

and delivered the correspondence relative to the demand for surrender, was also with my aide-de-camp, Captain Anderson, with flag of truce on the day succeeding the capture in delivering the wounded on board the U. S. vessels. I respectfully suggest, therefore, that you furnish Judge Scruggs with such papers as will enable him to make the examination desired, as it may prove important; and inasmuch as the investigating committee appointed by the Federal President have reported, a communication to Confederate authority may be made on the subject, and it is due to my command to place at the command of the War Department all the facts in the premises.

I am, general, very respectfully &c., your obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,
*Tupelo, June* 24, 1864.

Maj. Gen. S. D. LEE,
*Commanding Department, Meridian:*

GENERAL: I have the honor herewith to inclose you copy of letter addressed to Major-General Washburn; also his letter addressed to you or the commanding officer Confederate forces near Tupelo.* I have not in anywise compromised you, and leave the answer to General Washburn to yourself, provided you deem it necessary or advisable to communicate with him further. I deemed it due myself and command to say what I have said to him, but did not think it proper to make any communication over your signature.

I also have the honor to inclose you statements of Captain Young, who was captured at Fort Pillow, and you can make such use of them as you may deem necessary.† As my official reports are in the hands of the Department at Richmond I did not, nor do I, consider that I have any defense to make, or attempt any refutations of the charges made by General Washburn. The character and tenor of his letter is also so outrageously insulting that but for its importance to my men—not myself—I should not have replied to it at all.

I shall forward you to-morrow a statement of the capture of Fort Pillow, by giving you a copy‡ of communication asked for unofficially by Colonel Brent, assistant adjutant-general, and made by my aide-de-camp, Capt. C. W. Anderson.

I have taken pains, also, in my official report made to Lieutenant-General Polk, to place all the facts in the possession of the Government in order that they might meet any demands made by Federal authority.

Should you, however, think proper to place in the hands of General Washburn the papers sent you upon this subject, you are, of course, at liberty to use them. As for myself, entirely conscious of right, I have no explanations, apologies, or disavowals to make to General Washburn, nor to any one else but my Government, through my superior officers.

I am, general, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

N. B. FORREST,
*Major-General.*

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* See pp. 586, 587. † See pp. 594, 595. ‡ See p. 595.

DEMOPOLIS, *April* 24, 1864.

Major-General FORREST,
*Via Tupelo:*

Your brilliant campaign in West Tennessee has given me great satisfaction, and entitles you to the thanks of your countrymen. Appropriate orders in writing will be transmitted you immediately. A movement of the enemy up the Yazoo has made it necessary that a division of your troops should move to meet it. I have ordered the brigade with General Chalmers and another from Okolona to move promptly so as to unite and give to General Adams the support he needs. I have also ordered Morton's battery to join them.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

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JOINT RESOLUTION of thanks to Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest and the officers and men of his command, for their campaign in Mississippi, West Tennessee, and Kentucky.

*Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America*, That the thanks of Congress are eminently due, and are hereby cordially tendered, to Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest, and the officers and men of his command, for their late brilliant and successful campaign in Mississippi, West Tennessee, and Kentucky—a campaign which has conferred upon its authors fame as enduring as the records of the struggle which they have so brilliantly illustrated.

Approved, May 23, 1864.

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No. 27.

*Report of Capt. John Goodwin, Provost-Marshal-General.*

OKOLONA, MISS.,
*April* 21, 1864.

I accompany herewith list of prisoners captured by Major-General Forrest at Fort Pillow, as also one containing the names and owners and residences of the negroes captured at same place. Also is embraced a list of prisoners brought down from Jackson, Tenn., and no specific charges accompanying them; they will doubtless be sent in due time. F. P. Thomas is mentioned as a very bad man, he being among the number.

Also four stand of colors captured at Fort Pillow and one at another point. General Forrest wishes particular mention made of the large flag captured by Colonel Bell's brigade at Fort Pillow.

Yours, very respectfully,

JNO. GOODWIN,
*Provost-Marshal-General, General Forrest's Cav. Dept.*

Lieutenant-Colonel JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Demopolis, Ala.*

[Inclosure.]

List* of prisoners captured by Major-General Forrest at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864, and other points, flags, &c.

List† of prisoners captured at different times in West Tennessee by Major-General Forrest, and also embracing deserters, dangerous characters, &c.

List of flags, and by whom captured: One large flag captured 12th April, 1864, by Col. T. H. Bell's brigade; 3 flags captured at Fort Pillow; 1 guidon captured by Colonel Neely's brigade near Bolivar, Tenn.

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## No. 28.

*Report of Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding First Division Cavalry, of the capture of Fort Pillow.*

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, FORREST'S CAV. DEPARTMENT,
*Verona, May 7*, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the actions of the troops under my command in the recent capture of Fort Pillow, Tenn.:

In obedience to orders from Major-General Forrest, I directed Col. J. J. Neely, commanding First Brigade of this division, to move his command, on the morning of the 10th April, from Whiteville southward in the direction of Memphis, instructing him to produce the impression that he was the advance of General Forrest's command, and that our whole force was in his rear, and to make preparations for constructing pontoon bridges across Wolf River at Raleigh and one or two other points, and to make such demonstrations as would induce the enemy to believe that our whole force was about to attack Memphis. At the same time I ordered Col. John McGuirk, Third Regiment Mississippi State Cavalry, to move with his own regiment and the First Mississippi Partisans, under Major Park, northward from the Tallahatchie River toward Memphis, and to report that Major-General Lee was advancing from the south of that place. It gives me pleasure to report that both of these officers executed these orders with promptness and success.

I then assumed command of a division composed of McCulloch's brigade of my division and Col. T. H. Bell's brigade of Buford's division.

On the morning of the 11th instant, I moved this division from Sharon's Ferry, on Forked Deer, in the direction of Brownsville, and on the same morning moved Lieutenant-Colonel Chalmers' battalion through Brownsville on the Memphis road, and thence by a circuitous route back again to the Fort Pillow road. I moved from Brownsville in person, at 3.30 p. m., on the 11th and reached Fort Pillow, a distance of 40 miles, at daylight next morning. Colonel McCulloch, commanding advance, surprised the enemy's pickets and captured 4 of them. My orders from General Forrest were to invest the place, and I proceeded to do so as follows: McCulloch's brigade moved

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*Nominal list (omitted) shows 6 officers and 154 enlisted men.

†Nominal list (omitted) shows 39 persons.

down the Fulton road to Gaines' farm; thence north to the fort on a road running parallel with the Mississippi River; Wilson's regiment, of Bell's brigade, moved on the direct road from Brownsville to Fort Pillow, and Colonel Bell with Barteau's and Russell's regiments moved down Coal Creek to attack the fort in the rear.

The works at Fort Pillow consisted of a strong line of fortifications, originally constructed by Brigadier-General Pillow, of the C. S. Army, stretching from Coal Creek bottom, on the left, to the Mississippi River on the right, in length about 2 miles and at an average distance of about 600 yards from the river. Inside of this outer line and about 600 yards from it stood an interior work on the crest of a commanding hill, originally commenced by Brigadier-General Villepigue, C. S. Army, which covered about 2 acres of ground. About 300 yards in rear of this, above the junction of Coal Creek and the Mississippi River, stood the last fortification, which was a strong dirt fort in semicircular form, with a ditch in front of it 12 feet wide and 8 feet deep.

The enemy did not attempt to hold the outer line, but trained their artillery so as to play upon the only roads leading through it.

The fight was opened at daylight by McCulloch. He moved cautiously through the ravines and short hills which encompassed the place, protecting the men as much as possible from the enemy's artillery, five pieces of which from the fort, aided by two gun-boats on the river, played furiously upon him. Moving in this manner he succeeded about 11 o'clock in taking the work, which I have spoken of as having been commenced by General Villepigue, and the flag of the Eighteenth Mississippi Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Chalmers commanding, which had been the first regiment to enter the fort, was quickly flying above it.

While Colonel McCulloch had been moving up on the left, Colonel Bell moved up on the right and rear, and Colonel Wilson moved up on the center, taking advantage of the ground as much as possible to shelter their men. Affairs were in this condition, with the main fort completely invested, when Major-General Forrest arrived with Colonel Wisdom's regiment of Buford's division. After carefully examining the position he ordered a general charge to be made. The troops responded with alacrity and enthusiasm, and in a short time took possession of all the rifle-pits around the fort, and closed up on all sides within 25 or 30 yards of the outer ditch. Here a considerable delay occurred from the ammunition being exhausted. A supply, however, was obtained as quickly as possible from the ordnance train and everything was made ready for another advance. To prevent the unnecessary effusion of blood Major-General Forrest now demanded, under flag of truce, the surrender of the place, which after a parley of about thirty minutes was refused. The bugle then sounded the charge, a general rush was made along the whole line, and in five minutes the ditch was crossed, the parapet scaled, and our troops were in possession of the fort.

The enemy made no attempt to surrender, no white flag was elevated, nor was the U. S. flag lowered until pulled down by our men. Many of them were killed while fighting, and many more in the attempt to escape. The strength of the enemy's force cannot be correctly ascertained, though it was probably about 650 or 700. Of these, 69 wounded were delivered to the enemy's gun-boats next day, after having been paroled. One hundred and sixty-four white men

and 40 negroes were taken prisoners, making an aggregate of 273 prisoners. It is probable as many as half a dozen may have escaped. The remainder of the garrison were killed.

I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of the troops under my command. Colonels McCulloch and Bell deserve especial mention for the gallantry with which they led their respective brigades, and the troops emulated the conduct of their leaders. Lieutenant-Colonel Reed, temporarily commanding the Fifth Mississippi Cavalry, was pre-eminently daring, and fell mortally wounded while standing on the rifle-pits and encouraging his men to the charge, and Lieutenant Burton was killed at his side. Lieutenant Ryan, of Willis' Texas Battalion, who had won for himself the character of being the best soldier in his regiment, was killed by a shell, and Captain Sullivan, commanding the same battalion, was mortally wounded while most gallantly leading his command. Lieutenant Hubbard, of the Eighteenth Mississippi Battalion, a young but promising officer, was also mortally wounded and has since died.

I cannot conclude this report without mentioning in an especial manner the gallant conduct of Capt. C. T. Smith, commanding my escort company, who led the charge as we moved from the first to the second fort, or without paying a tribute to Private Samuel Allen, of my escort, who was killed in the charge.

I have already furnished a detailed report of the killed and wounded of my command, amounting to 14 killed and 86 wounded. A report of captured property has been called for from the two brigades, and will be forwarded as soon as received.

I herewith submit reports of subordinate commanders.*

I have the honor to be, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. R. CHALMERS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. J. P. STRANGE,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*ADDENDA.*

HDQRS. FIRST DIV., FORREST'S CAV. DEPT.,
*Oxford, Miss.*, *April* 20, 1864.

SOLDIERS: I congratulate you upon your success in the brilliant campaign recently conducted in West Tennessee under the guidance of Major-General Forrest, whose star never shone brighter, and whose restless activity, untiring energy, and courage baffled the calculations and paralyzed the arms of our enemies.

In a brief space of time we have killed 4,000 of the enemy, captured over 1,200 prisoners, 800 horses, 5 pieces of artillery, thousands of small-arms, and many stand of colors, destroyed millions of dollars' worth of property, and relieved the patriots of West Tennessee from the hourly dread in which they have been accustomed to live. West Tennessee is redeemed, and our friends who have heretofore been compelled to speak with bated breath now boldly proclaim their sentiments.

It is with pride and pleasure that I review the part taken by the soldiers of this division in this decisive campaign.

Colonel Duckworth, of the Seventh Tennessee, by a successful ruse at Union City made the enemy believe that Major-General For-

* Reports not found.

rest was present, and compelled the surrender of the place by Hawkins and his regiment of renegade Tennesseeans, with all their arms, horses, and equipments.

Colonel Neely, of the Thirteenth Tennessee, met the traitor Hurst at Bolivar, and after a short conflict, in which we killed and captured 75 prisoners of the enemy, drove Hurst hatless into Memphis, leaving in our hands all his wagons, ambulances, papers, and his mistresses, both black and white.

The once arrogant Grierson, who has never recovered his equanimity since his flight from Okolona, ventured out with two brigades to look after us, when Lieutenant-Colonel Crews, with his dashing battalion, defeated his advance guard, and sent him hurriedly back to Memphis, where he remained trembling behind his fortifications and frightened at every mention of the name of Forrest.

Colonel Neely on the north and Colonel McGuirk on the south, by well-executed demonstrations, alarmed the enemy for the safety of Memphis, while the lion-hearted McCulloch, with his "fighting brigade" of Missourians, Texans, and Mississippians, nobly assisted by Colonel Bell, with his gallant brigade of Tennesseeans, from Buford's division, temporarily attached to my command, stormed the works at Fort Pillow, in the face of the incessant fire from two gun-boats and five pieces of artillery from the fort, and taught the mongrel garrison of blacks and renegades a lesson long to be remembered.

While we rejoice over our victories, let us not forget the few gallant spirits who yielded up their lives to their country, and fell as brave men love to fall, "with their backs to the field and their feet to the foe."

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

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**MARCH 18, 1864.—Scout from Island No. 10, Tenn., to New Madrid, Mo.**

*Report of Capt. Robert M. Ekings, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Island* 10, *Tenn., March* 24, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to orders from district headquarters, bearing date March 11, 1864, on the evening of the 18th instant I embarked on the steamer John Rowe, and crossing the river landed on the Tennessee shore, opposite the island, 60 colored troops, under the command of Capt. J. B. Rogers, Company C, Seventh Louisiana Infantry, of African descent, with orders to scour the country between Island 10 and Tiptonville. With the remainder of my force, 40 men of Company C, Thirty-fourth New New Jersey Infantry, I proceeded to New Madrid, Mo., where I was re-enforced by 30 infantry of the Second Missouri Heavy Artillery, and 20 men of the First Missouri Cavalry ordered to join me, at my request, by Major Rabb, commanding that post.

I disembarked at Riley's Landing, 7 miles below Tiptonville, and commenced a northward march, carefully examining the country as I advanced. I could discover no guerrillas, with one exception. A certain Obadiah Green, a brother-in-law of the guerrilla leader Brad-

ford, was captured by us at Bradford's house. We reached the island about sunset on the 19th instant. From the best information I could obtain I should be inclined to the opinion that the guerrillas under Parks and Bradford had left Madrid Bend about a week previous to the scout under my command.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. M. EKINGS,

*Capt. Co. C, 34th New Jersey Infantry, Commanding Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**MARCH 19, 1864.—Skirmish on the Cumberland River, Ky.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Edward H. Hobson, U. S. Army, commanding District of Southern Central Kentucky.*

HDQRS. DIST. SOUTHERN CENTRAL KENTUCKY,
*Cave City, Ky., March* 23, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on Saturday, 19th, a detachment Thirteenth Kentucky Cavalry, under Major Rigney, had a slight engagement with Hamilton on the Cumberland River, in which we lost none and captured Hamilton with 11 of his men, killed 3, and wounded 2; no loss on our side.

I forward under charge of Capt. H. D. Baker all the prisoners mentioned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. H. HOBSON.

Capt. A. C. SEMPLE,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**MARCH 21, 1864.—Skirmish at Reynoldsburg, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. Isaac R. Hawkins, Seventh Tennessee Cavalry.*

UNION CITY, TENN.,
*March* 22, 1864.

GENERAL: A detachment of 10 men belonging to Major Hardy's command, stationed at Reynoldsburg, Tenn., has just arrived, who state that on the 20th they left the major there with 50 men; that at 11 a. m. the 21st a detachment of 20 men were attacked by from 100 to 150 Confederates, and are probably all captured. That about 100 men of the battalion are somewhere south of Huntingdon; that there are only about 100 men in camp and a large amount of public stores there. I am apprehensive for the fate of the major. The fight occurred 65 miles from this place.

ISAAC R. HAWKINS,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. M. BRAYMAN,

*Commanding District of Cairo.*

## MARCH 21, 1864.—Skirmish near Moulton, Ala.

### REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, U. S. Army, commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Col. William A. Johnson, Fourth Alabama Cavalry, commanding Cavalry, District of North Alabama.

No. 3.—Col. James Jackson, Twenty-seventh Alabama Infantry.

### No. 1.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, U. S. Army, commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

ATHENS, ALA.,
*March* 21, 1864.

Colonel Phillips has just got in. Struck the enemy 3 miles south of Moulton, two regiments of infantry and 1,000 cavalry; after a sharp fight fell back; rebels followed for 14 miles. We lost 4 killed and 10 wounded. We killed and wounded a number of the enemy, and brought in a number of prisoners, among them a captain of artillery belonging to Forrest. Colonel Phillips says part of Forrest's command is between Tuscumbia and Eastport, and some report he intends an attack on Decatur; some that he intends crossing the river. A scout in from Gadsden says a General Clanton is near there with two brigades of cavalry and fifteen pieces of artillery; that Roddey has been ordered into North Alabama. Also scout in from Columbus says Lee, Forrest, and Jackson are all ordered up toward Tennessee River, but only know of Forrest passing up.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. R. M. SAWYER,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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ATHENS,
*March* 21, 1864.

Phillips struck enemy 3 miles south of Moulton, two regiments infantry, three regiments cavalry. Reports Forrest in Tuscumbia Valley. Captured some of his officers. Scout from Gadsden reports Brigadier-General Clanton near there with two brigades, fifteen pieces of artillery; also that Roddey was ordered to North Alabama. Scout from Columbus reports Forrest, Lee, and Jackson ordered up to Tennessee River. Knows only of Forrest going; hard to tell what Forrest intends; looks as though he means to cross between Eastport and Tuscumbia, or he may only threaten this way while he pushes toward Paducah. No doubt about his being on the river.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General LOGAN,
*Huntsville.*

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*See also General Thomas' report, p. 16.

No. 2.

*Report of Col. William A. Johnson, Fourth Alabama Cavalry, commanding Cavalry, District of North Alabama.*

CAMP NEAR MOULTON, ALA.,
*March* 24, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have just received a dispatch from General Forrest placing me temporarily in command of the cavalry in this district. I have now under me about 400 mounted men for duty. A brigade of the enemy (infantry) and two regiments of cavalry are at Decatur. The infantry are fortifying and the cavalry are scouring the country. They have a pontoon bridge across the river at Decatur, and General Dodge's division is in the vicinity.

I met one of his mounted regiments, 500 strong, on the 21st instant near this place with 200 men, routing him completely and chasing him 10 miles, killing 10 and wounding about 40, and capturing 8.

The Twenty-seventh and Thirty-fifth Alabama Regiments (infantry) of your command, under Colonels Jackson and Ives, are in this vicinity, having come up for the purpose of recruiting, but have determined to fall back to Smithville, Miss., on account of the proximity of the enemy. If they were retained here they could be mounted temporarily and serve a twofold purpose, viz, that of recruiting and operating against the enemy. I most respectfully request that they be ordered to remain in this district.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. A. JOHNSON,
*Colonel, Comdg. Cavalry, District of North Alabama.*

Captain BUCK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Col. James Jackson, Twenty-seventh Alabama Infantry.*

HDQRS. TWENTY-SEVENTH ALABAMA REGIMENT,
*Russellville, Ala., March* 28, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that in compliance with Special Orders, No. 62, I started to North Alabama with my command. Seventy miles above Tuscaloosa I received an official dispatch from Colonel Moreland that 6,000 Federals had crossed at Decatur; 3,000 more were crossing at Florence. I fell back 10 miles to where forage could be procured, and sent officers forward to ascertain the enemy's intentions. They reported only 700 cavalry outside of Decatur. I then moved the command up to Mount Hope, 32 miles west of Decatur, to procure supplies. Ascertaining the enemy's force to be about 2,500 infantry and 700 cavalry, and our cavalry having left the valley, I determined to fall back to Smithville for safety. At

Bear Creek I received an order from General Forrest to get all the cavalry and, with the regiments of infantry under my command, drive the enemy from the valley.

On the 21st, met the enemy near Moulton, about 200 strong, and drove them into Decatur, killing 7 or 8, wounding several, and capturing 3.

Our loss, 1 killed, 1 badly and several slightly wounded.

Our cavalry, under Colonel Johnson, about 300 strong, were engaged. The infantry were not able to get up. Being satisfied we could accomplish nothing more I fell back to this place, and am now giving the men short furloughs to visit their homes and think they will bring in several men on their return. There are a large number of men in the country, and should the enemy recross the river I am satisfied I will be able to fill up the regiment very rapidly.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JACKSON,
*Colonel Twenty-seventh Alabama Regiment.*

Col. T. M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**MARCH 22, 1864.—Skirmish at Langley's Plantation, Issaquena County, Miss.**

*Report of Maj. William S. Aken, Fifty-first U. S. Colored Infantry.*

CAMP FIFTY-FIRST REGT. U. S. INFANTRY (COLORED),
*Goodrich's Landing, La., March 26, 1864.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of an expedition sent out under my command from this point on the 22d instant:

I embarked with three companies of the Fifty-first U. S. Infantry (colored), and one company of the Sixty-sixth U. S. Infantry (colored), at about 4 p. m. on that day, on board a tug lying at this place, with instructions from Colonel Frohock to attempt the capture of a party of guerrillas said to be raiding the plantations on the Mississippi side of the river, 5 miles below this point. Immediately upon debarking I marched into the country back of the river 2½ miles to Dr. Langley's plantation, where I expected to find the enemy, arriving there about 6 p. m.

While on the march, about dusk, I discovered a force coming toward me on the road, and I immediately threw my men in ambush behind a house and back of the levee, and awaited their approach. The enemy had a few men in advance, with the main force in the rear, driving between 40 and 50 mules and a wagon loaded with provisions and stores, just captured from a plantation leased by Slater and Perkins. As they came in front my men fired and killed the man in advance, who appeared to be an officer, and also a negro guide, and wounded 4 or 5 others. The remainder wheeled and broke in confusion, retreating into the woods.

Owing to the hastiness of one of my men in firing before ordered, the surprise was not as complete as could have been wished. I captured all the mules and provisions, which I returned to the

owners, took 4 horses belonging to the enemy, 1 Sharps carbine, and 2 Colt revolvers. Three shotguns were also captured, but were so injured as to be worthless.

After the affray I deployed one company as skirmishers and started in pursuit, for a mile or more, when, darkness coming on, I encamped for the night.

At daybreak in the morning I started on my return, and, marching 8 miles to a point opposite Goodrich's Landing, returned to camp about 9 a. m. on the 24th instant. The captured horses I was obliged to leave on the other side of the river for the want of transportation across.

WILLIAM S. AKEN,
*Major Fifty-first U. S. Infantry (colored).*

Lieut. E. P. REICHHELM,
*Adjutant Fifty-first U. S. Infantry (colored).*

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**MARCH 22, 1864.—Affair at Fancy Farms, Ky.**

*Report of Col. William H. Lawrence, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POST,
*Columbus, Ky., March 22, 1864.*

Julian Sanderson, mail carrier between Columbus and Mayfield, reports that the postmaster at Fancy Farms, 10 miles south of Mayfield, was shot this morning; also the Catholic chapel at that place destroyed; that Willet & Boswell's store was entered, taking all their goods. They number about 50 men, and have taken off some 4 or 5 citizens as prisoners.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. HUDSON LAWRENCE,
*Colonel Thirty-fourth New Jersey Vols., Comdg. Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN, *A. A. G., Cairo, Ill.*

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**MARCH 27, 1864.—Affair at Louisville, Tenn.**

*Report of Lieut. Col. Robert O. Selfridge, Assistant Inspector-General.*

LOUDON, *March 28, 1864.*

Brigadier-General Wagner reports that 15 to 20 mounted rebels dashed into Louisville yesterday, captured a Union citizen, and left in the direction of the town of Maryville.

R. O. SELFRIDGE,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Assistant Inspector-General.*

Major-General SCHOFIELD.

## MARCH 28, 1864.—Affair at New Hope, Ky.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Edward H. Hobson, U. S. Army, commanding District of Southern Central Kentucky.*

CAVE CITY, KY., *March* 28, 1864.

SIR: Eighty rebels burned the passenger train at New Hope this morning. Guards had better be sent on trains coming down for fear they will try to cross Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and may get another train.

E. H. HOBSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Captain SEMPLE, *A. A. G., Louisville, Ky.*

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## MARCH 28, 1864.—Riot at Charleston, Coles County, Ill.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman, U. S. Army, commanding Northern Department.

No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Julius White, U. S. Army.

No. 3.—Lieut. Col. James Oakes, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, Acting Assistant Provost-Marshal-General of Illinois.

No. 4.—Maj. Addison A. Hosmer, Acting Judge-Advocate-General U. S. Army.

### No. 1.

*Report of Maj. Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman, U. S. Army, commanding Northern Department.*

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN DEPARTMENT,
*Columbus, Ohio, March* 29, 1864.
(Received 2 a. m., 30th.)

SIR: There has been a serious disturbance at Charleston, Coles County, Ill.; 5 or 6 men killed, and about 20 wounded. A veteran regiment is there, and I have made arrangements to re-enforce them should the disturbance be renewed. I leave to-night for Johnson's Island.

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,
*Major-General.*

General HALLECK,
*Chief of Staff, Washington.*

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### No. 2.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Julius White, U. S. Army.*

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *March* 29, 1864.

Six persons were killed and about 20 wounded in the affray at Charleston. Lieutenant-Colonel Oakes, assistant provost-marshal-general from this State, sent an officer there last night, who reports

*See also Potter to Heintzelman, March 30, Part III, pp. 197, 198.

no further disturbance. The strength of the Fifty-fourth [Illinois] is not known here, as it has lately been recruited, but it is not less than 500. There is no further information from Moultrie County. I think now that the Fifty-fourth will be able to maintain peace.

J. WHITE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General HEINTZELMAN.

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No. 3.

*Reports of Lieut. Col. James Oakes, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, Acting Assistant Provost-Marshal-General of Illinois.*

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *March* 29, 1864.

There has been a serious disturbance at Charleston, Ill. Captain Montgomery, an experienced officer whom I sent to that place last night, reports as follows:

MATTOON, *March* 29, 1864.

Lieut. Col. JAMES OAKES,
*Superintendent Volunteer Recruiting Service:*

The disturbance at Charleston was quite serious; 6 killed and 20 wounded. It is now quiet. I do not think you need come. I go to Charleston this morning. Will report further from there.

D. L. MONTGOMERY,
*Seventeenth Infantry, Mustering and Disbursing Officer.*

I will keep you fully informed in case of first outbreak.

JAS. OAKES,
*Lieut. Col. and Actg. Asst. Provost-Marshal-General of Ill.*

Major-General HEINTZELMAN,
*Commanding.*

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OFFICE OF ASSISTANT PROVOST-MARSHAL-GENERAL,
*Springfield, Ill., April* 18, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that information of the disturbances in Charleston, Coles County, Ill., on the 28th of March last, reached me on the afternoon of the same day.

Captain Montgomery, U. S. Army, being about to proceed to Mattoon on mustering duty, I directed him to repair to the scene of the outbreak, ascertain the posture of affairs, and telegraph me if my presence was deemed necessary.

About 8.30 p. m. the next day I received a dispatch from Captain Montgomery requesting me to come down without delay, and left by the next train for Mattoon, where I arrived on the morning of the 30th. Finding the town in a state of great excitement from rumors, apparently entitled to credit, that the insurgents meditated an attack in force to rescue the prisoners which had been sent up from Charleston, I deemed it prudent to order forward the Forty-first Regiment, Colonel Pugh commanding, from Springfield.

Taking a freight train I then proceeded to Charleston. Colonel Mitchell, of the Fifty-fourth Infantry, was absent with a mounted detachment of his regiment in search of the insurgents, who had left the town and were reported to be collecting in large bodies in various directions in the surrounding country.

In the afternoon (30th) I received a dispatch from Colonel True, Sixty-second Illinois, on recruiting duty at Mattoon and command-

ing post, representing in urgent terms the need of more troops at that point. I therefore asked for 500 men from Indianapolis, and returned by next train to Mattoon, finding the place in a state of the most intense excitement, over a hundred citizens being organized and under arms, the prisoners lodged in a secure place and strongly guarded, pickets posted, and every preparation made to defend the place, an attack upon which was confidently anticipated.

The Forty-first Illinois, Colonel Pugh, and Forty-seventh Indiana, Colonel Slack, arrived about midnight, and both regiments, under the command of Colonel True, proceeded to points some 12 miles west and southwest of Mattoon in search of the rebels, who were believed to be there collected in considerable force. Finding that the insurgents, small parties of whom had been assembled at the designated places, had dispersed upon the advance of the troops and made good their escape, the command returned to Mattoon, arriving on the morning of the 31st, when the Forty-seventh Indiana was permitted to proceed on their way to Cairo en route for the field.

Leaving the Forty-first at Mattoon, I again repaired to Charleston, where I found the excitement subsided and confidence partially restored, the people feeling secure in the protection of the troops, consisting of the Fifty-fourth Illinois, and Company E, Twenty-third Veteran Reserve Corps, which had been stopped by Captain Montgomery on the 29th while on its way from Paris, Ill. After making such arrangements for the protection of the place and the maintenance of order as circumstances seemed to require, I returned to Mattoon and thence to Springfield, arriving on the morning of the 2d instant.

On the 8th instant, I again visited both Charleston and Mattoon, and found those places and the surrounding country quiet and confidence generally restored. The Forty-first was furloughed on the 11th instant, and the Fifty-fourth left for the field on the 12th, leaving one company of the Veteran Reserve Corps at Charleston and another at Paris, which I deem ample for the present.

A large number of prisoners were taken by the military and citizens, most of whom were released for lack of evidence. The proof against 29 was, however, deemed sufficient to warrant their being held for further examination, and I ordered them to be forwarded, under guard, to Camp Yates, near this city, until the necessary testimony could be obtained and examined, to enable me to determine what further disposition should be made of them. After careful examination of the evidence received, consisting of affidavits, reports, letters, &c., and which is very voluminous, I have discharged 13 of the 29, and 1 has since died, leaving 15 yet to be disposed of. I have forwarded all the testimony, together with an elaborate report, to Maj. Gen. S. P. Heintzelman, commanding Northern Department, with request that the prisoners might be tried by military law, if consistent and expedient, and requesting early instructions or suggestions for my further action in the premises.

It is much to be regretted that the ruling spirits and chief actors in this treasonable insurrection have not as yet been captured. O'Hair, the sheriff of Coles County and the ringleader of the insurgents, is not to be found; and others who were prominent in the murderous assault have made their escape.

It is impossible to doubt that this outbreak was premeditated and preconcerted, and that its immediate purpose was the murder of the soldiers, to be followed by such other movements as circumstances

might warrant, and it is this fact that gives special significance to the whole affair. The occasion was favorable. The circuit court of Coles County, Judge Constable presiding, was to open on Monday, the 28th of March, and Mr. Eden, member of Congress from that district, was to make a speech. It was known that the Fifty-fourth Regiment was about to return to the field, and that a number of soldiers belonging to that regiment would take the cars on that day at Charleston for the rendezvous at Mattoon. There was thus an excellent pretext for a large gathering without exciting suspicion, while the number of soldiers would be comparatively small and in no condition for defense.

On the appointed day the court convened. Sheriff O'Hair was present attending to his official duties; the court-house square was thronged with people, including notorious secessionists from the adjoining county of Edgar, whose sheriff is brother to the sheriff of Coles County. Mingling with the crowd, and unarmed with one or two exceptions, were some 12 or 15 soldiers of the Fifty-fourth, who were residents of Charleston and vicinity, quietly conversing with their acquaintances while waiting for the train for Mattoon. Presently, without cause of provocation, a desperado named Wells fired upon and mortally wounded a soldier. Sheriff O'Hair instantly rushed from the court-room, marshaled the insurgents, put himself at their head, and directed all their subsequent movements. Every man of the assailants was found to be armed. Pistols were drawn and fired in all directions. When these had been discharged they rushed to wagons near by and brought forth guns and ammunition, which had been lain concealed beneath the straw, &c. In one minute, as Colonel Mitchell reports, 100 shots were fired and nearly every soldier was either killed or wounded, although scattered about over the whole square; every blue coat or brass button, without distinction, became a target for the assassins.

I think all this admits of but one solution, a deliberate plot on the part of the leaders to murder the soldiers of the United States. This view is confirmed by several witnesses, who swear that the purpose of "cleaning out" the soldiers and Union men on that day had been avowed by the ringleaders several days before, and preparations had been extensively made to execute the threat; and I am satisfied that but for the timely action of Colonel Mitchell in ordering up his regiment from Mattoon, and the prompt measures subsequently taken to check the progress of the insurgents and thwart their designs, it would have proved the beginning of an extensive and dangerous emeute in that part of the State.

I have direct personal knowledge that some at least of the gang were members of a treasonable secret society, kindred in its character and objects with that known as the "K. G. C.," or Knights of the Golden Circle, and I have little doubt that the outbreak was planned and executed in great part by and through that organization. There is also reason to apprehend that through the same agency an extensive and formidable conspiracy is being formed against the Government, and that it is only awaiting a fitting opportunity for development. It is therefore not so much on account of the intrinsic importance of these disturbances, desperate and bloody as they were, as from a sense of their revelation of and bearing upon future and more daring machinations against the Government, that I am desirous that these prisoners and the leaders, should they hereafter be taken, may be tried and (if found guilty) punished by the military

authorities. I fear it would be useless to turn them over for trial by the civil tribunals, whether State or Federal, to whose jurisdiction they would belong. Prompt and rigorous dealing by military law could not fail to be of salutary and lasting effect. It is scarcely necessary to observe that many of the insurgents were without doubt merely the dupes of others and were inveigled into the scheme without apprehending or approving the real purpose of the chief conspirators. It is proper to add that the opinion of the origin, character, and purpose of the insurrection, herein expressed, is concurred in by every loyal man of the counties concerned with whom I have conversed.

Herewith I have the honor to transmit the report of Col. G. M. Mitchell, Fifty-fourth Illinois Infantry.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES OAKES,
*Lieutenant-Colonel Fourth U. S. Cavalry,*
*Acting Assistant Provost-Marshal-General, Illinois.*

Col. JAMES B. FRY,
*Provost-Marshal-General, Washington, D. C.*

[Inclosure.]

HDQRS. FIFTY-FOURTH ILL. INFTY. VET. VOLS.,
*Mattoon, Ill., April* 8, 1864.

COLONEL: In pursuance of instructions from you, I have the honor to report my proceedings during the recent disturbances in Coles County, as follows:

The furloughs granted my men having expired they were ordered to rendezvous at Mattoon, Ill., March 28. As many of the men lived at, or would pass through, Charleston on their way to camp, I remained there Monday to see them all on the train and to prevent any disturbance.

Before the afternoon train left for Mattoon about 3 p. m., Nelson Wells, a so-called captain of a company organized some 7 miles north of Charleston, whose object in drilling was only known to themselves, commenced firing at Private Oliver Sallee, Company C, Fifty-fourth Illinois, so far as I can learn without the slightest provocation, lodging a ball in Sallee's breast, which has since caused his death. Sallee fell, but partially rising shot Wells dead. This was in the court-house yard, near the west door. Immediately firing became general, the sheriff of this county, John H. O'Hair, leaving his seat and taking the lead in the attack upon the soldiers. Some 16 of my men were present on the square, nearly all of whom were killed or wounded. Some 75 men, after firing wherever they could see a blue coat, collected at a grove about one-quarter of a mile from the square east of town, under the lead of the sheriff, held a consultation, and learning the Fifty-fourth Illinois were on their way from Mattoon, moved out in the country.

Immediately on the report of Wells' pistol I stepped out of the west door of the court-room, when 3 men with revolvers drawn, apparently expecting me, commenced firing, 2 of them running by me into the room. I caught one named Robert Winkler by the wrist as he was attempting to shoot me, turning his revolver down until he discharged all his loads.

Maj. Shuball York, surgeon of the Fifty-fourth Illinois, was shot from behind as he was leaving the court-room, expiring almost instantly.

The attack could not have lasted over a minute, during which one hundred shots must have been fired, nearly all of my men being either killed or wounded. The fact that my men, scattered as they were over the square, were instantly shot down, and the systematic manner in which the sheriff rallied and drew off his party, together with affidavits of reliable citizens forwarded, leaves no room to doubt that a party of men came to Charleston armed with revolvers and shotguns with the knowledge and consent of Sheriff O'Hair, with deliberate intention of killing the soldiers.

As soon as the firing was over I telegraphed to Colonel Chapman at Mattoon to bring men and guns. He arrived at 4.30 p. m. with 250 men. I immediately mounted 75 men and scoured the country in all directions, arresting several parties implicated, and releasing Levi Freesner, private Company C, Fifty-fourth Illinois, who was confined in a house under guard 7 miles from town. He was arrested by Sheriff O'Hair some distance from the square while on his way to the station to take the cars for Mattoon, and knew nothing of the affray. His gun and accouterments have not yet been secured. As the regiment arrived in the court-house yard a man named John Cooper, living in this county, who had been in town all day intoxicated, wearing a pistol in sight and swearing he came to kill soldiers, was accosted by a patrol, but turning to run was immediately shot down, citizens and soldiers firing without orders. Unfortunately a ball passed through the residence of John Jenkins, citizen, wounding him and since causing his death.

Captain Montgomery, mustering and disbursing officer, arrived from Springfield, Ill., Tuesday morning, and examined several witnesses, instructing me to remain at Charleston with my command until you arrived.

A company of the Invalid Corps, Lieutenant Baker commanding, passing from Paris, were detained by Captain Montgomery and ordered to report to me.

On your arrival Wednesday you instructed me to continue to arrest individuals implicated in the murder, procure affidavits of reliable witnesses, and to keep the peace, which has been done.

Hearing of large bodies of rioters of the country, I left Charleston with 100 mounted men at 9 p. m., April 2, proceeded south through Martinsville, to within 5 miles of Marshall, county seat of Clark County, from thence to Auburn, and north to the Terre Haute, Alton and Saint Louis Railroad at Kansas, and thence to Charleston, arriving at 7 p. m., April 4. I found bodies of men from 25 to 100 had been seen, but had dispersed; one squad of 16 I arrested but released. At present all is quiet.

I forward herewith lists of killed and wounded; also lists of prisoners forwarded.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. M. MITCHELL,
*Col. Fifty-fourth Ill. Vet. Vol. Infty., Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. JAMES OAKES,
*Superintendent Recruiting Service, Springfield, Ill.*

[Sub-inclosures.]

The following is the list of killed and wounded during the disturbance at Charleston, Ill.:

Killed: Maj. Shuball York, Fifty-fourth Illinois Infantry; Privates Oliver Sallee and James Goodrich, Company C, and John Neer

and Alfred Swim, Company G, Fifty-fourth Illinois Infantry; Private William G. Hart, Sixty-second Illinois Infantry; John Jenkins, citizen (loyal); Nelson Wells, citizen (sheriff's party); John Cooper, citizen (sheriff's party).

Wounded: Col. G. M. Mitchell, Fifty-fourth Illinois; Privates William H. Decker, Company G, Landford Noyes, Company I, and George Ross, Company C, Fifty-fourth Illinois; Citizens Thomas Jeffers, William Gilman, Young E. Winkler, Robert Winkler, John W. Herndon, George J. Collins, and —— Reardon.

*Summary.*—Killed: Officers, 1; soldiers, 5; citizens, 3. Wounded: Officers, 1; soldiers, 4; citizens, 7.

List of prisoners taken in Coles County by Col. G. M. Mitchell, and forwarded to Mattoon, Ill., from April 1 to April 8, 1864: Jacob L. Reardon, Benjamin F. Reardon, David Reardon, John P. Keller, Nelson O'Hair, Michael Murphy, Miles Murphy, J. W. Murphy, James S. Hardwicke, William P. Hardwicke, S. G. Hanks, H. P. Tichnor, James O'Hair, jr., Blueford E. Brooks, Miner Shelborne, William C. Batty, James [Jordan ?] E. Hardwicke, John Reynolds, John T. Taylor, John F. Redmon, John W. Herndon, John Galbreath, Henry Stevens, George Jeff Collins, James M. Houck, Aaron Bryant, Young E. Winkler.

G. M. MITCHELL,
*Colonel Fifty-fourth Ill. Vet. Vol. Infty.*

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No. 4.

*Report of Maj. Addison A. Hosmer, Acting Judge-Advocate-General, U. S. Army.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF MILITARY JUSTICE,
*Washington, D. C., July* 26, 1864.

In the case of Coles County prisoners, in custody at Fort Delaware, and charged with a murderous assault upon Union soldiers at Charleston, Ill., in March last, I have the honor to submit the following report and summary of evidence:

The facts in regard to this striking episode of the rebellion are as follows: For about a year before the occurrence in question there had been formed in Coles and Edgar Counties, Ill., an organization which comprised a considerable number of farmers and other citizens, all strongly in sympathy with the rebels. It would seem that a portion, at least, of them were associated as "Knights of the Golden Circle," but that which rendered their organization formidable was its military character. They appear to have formed an irregular regiment of companies, which met for frequent drill, which was under military discipline, and the members of which were tolerably well armed. Between this body and the loyal citizens there was of course a decided opposition, but it was against the Union soldiers that their hostility was principally expressed. Whenever they came in contact with the latter much taunting and threatening language was interchanged, and now and then personal collision took place as in the cases of Dukes and Toland, leaders of the "Butternuts" (as these men were sometimes called), who are said to have been severely handled on the part of the soldiers. Besides, however,

these occasional altercations, rendered inevitable by the disloyal conduct and utterances of these parties, they had as yet engaged in no general outbreak.

On the afternoon of Monday, the 28th day of March last, a dozen or 15 soldiers of the Fifty-fourth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers were collected at Charleston, the county seat of Coles County, Ill., in the neighborhood of which they resided, and from which place they were about to proceed by railroad to Mattoon, where the regiment (which had re-enlisted as veteran volunteers) had been ordered to rendezvous preparatory to its return to active service.

The day in question was the one appointed for the opening of the circuit court of the county, and it had also been given out that Hon. J. R. Eden, who represented the district in Congress, was to deliver a speech on the same day. A large number of persons had therefore gathered together, and had assembled mostly in the court-house square. Among these were distributed the soldiers, who were generally unarmed. The court had entered upon its regular business; the grand jury had been sworn, and had retired to its room; the sheriff of the county, John H. O'Hair, who had thus far been quietly engaged in his usual duties, was proceeding to impanel a petit jury. At this moment, about 3 p. m., a citizen named Nelson Wells, apparently without cause or excuse, suddenly drew a pistol and shot a soldier (Oliver Sallee) of the Fifty-fourth Regiment, who was standing near him in the square, inflicting a mortal wound. In falling, Sallee, who was armed, shot and fatally wounded his assailant.

The act of Wells was a signal for a general and evidently preconcerted assault upon the soldiers. The latter were at once fired upon from different directions and shot down by a large number of men armed with pistols, who, as soon as these were discharged, hastened to their wagons, which were near at hand, and in which had been carefully concealed guns and ammunition. With these the firing was continued, and in a very few minutes nearly every soldier in the square had been killed or wounded. One of the official reports sets forth that 100 shots were fired in the space of one minute, so fierce and summary was the assault.

Meanwhile, at the first fire, Sheriff O'Hair hurried abruptly from the court-room, placed himself at the head of the assailants, whose acknowledged leader he at once appeared to be, directed all their movements, and himself participated conspicuously in the murderous attack.

Meanwhile, also, the court-room had been invaded by the same band; Major York, the surgeon of the regiment, had been assassinated and killed, and Colonel Mitchell, of the Fifty-fourth Regiment, set upon by 3 armed men, with whom he had a desperate struggle, from which he barely succeeded in escaping with his life.

All this, as has been said, occurred in a very short space of time. One officer, 5 soldiers, and 1 loyal citizen had been killed; the colonel and 3 soldiers wounded. Of the assailants 2 were killed and 7 wounded.

When the first fury of the onslaught had expended itself Sheriff O'Hair collected his men, who were nearly 100 in number, and presently marched them off to a grove, about a quarter of a mile from the court-house. Here they remained till they learned that a considerable body of troops, for which Colonel Mitchell had at once telegraphed to Mattoon, were on the way to Charleston, whereupon they moved out into the country. With them they took 1 soldier as a prisoner.

At 4.30 o'clock 250 men of the Fifty-fourth Regiment arrived in a train from Mattoon, 75 of whom were mounted by Colonel Mitchell. By these the country was scoured for some distance, and in the course of the next day or two about 30 prisoners were captured. Lieutenant-Colonel Oakes, the acting assistant provost-marshal-general of the State, also took immediate and vigorous measures for the protection of the country, and assembled strong bodies of troops not only at Charleston, but at Mattoon and at Paris (in Edgar County), which places were supposed to be threatened with attack. It is principally from the full and detailed official report of this officer that the circumstances above narrated have been derived.

The insurgents, after leaving the scene of their crime, separated, but assembled on the same night at a rendezvous which had been indicated by their leaders. Thence they moved still farther south, separating as before, but assembling from day to day at some fixed point until Saturday of the same week, when the main body, which had become less and less, finally disbanded at a rendezvous near the town of Martinsville, Ill. At each place of meeting the more violent were in favor of pressing guns and ammunition, returning to Charleston, and again making an attack upon the troops and loyal citizens. These, however, were overruled by the majority.

In regard to this remarkable outbreak, it was quite evident at the moment, and still more so when the evidence now presented came to be taken, that it was the result of a preconcerted and carefully arranged plan. The parties who had long been associated in a political and military organization, who had frequently drilled together under their chosen leaders, who for some time had indulged in significant threats of "cleaning out" the soldiers and those who opposed their traitorous designs, and many of whom had been noted for their openly avowed and bitter disloyalty, expressed even while holding civil offices of trust and importance, were the same who assembled at Charleston on the 28th of March with carefully-concealed weapons, and who suddenly commenced a murderous assault upon every individual whom they saw dressed in the uniform of the United States.

The fact that they selected for this assault a period most opportune for their plans, when the presence of an unusual crowd would render their gathering less suspected, and when at the same time those who were the objects of their attack would be dispersed and disorganized; the character of their firing, which appeared to be in a single volley or very rapid succession of shots, and which followed instantaneously upon the given signal; the implicit obedience which they gave to the orders of their chief, or so-called "colonel," who would appear to have been awaiting the right moment to assume command, and whose appearance on the scene of action was evidently expected; the manner in which they rallied, marched off together, and held together until a dread of the increasing force of the U. S. troops induced them to disband—all these are circumstances which show most conclusively that this insurrection was no casual effort of lawless men, but the act of a body of conspirators, determined to effect, and by the most violent and summary proceedings, the overthrow of the military authority of the Government in that region of country.

That the insurrection was not more widely extended, and did not assume more threatening proportions, is doubtless owing to the vigorous measures taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Oakes and Colonel Mitchell to crush it at its inception. Of this rebellion *in petto* of traitors but

few of the leaders were apprehended. Of the rioters who were captured, about 30 in number, all were released but 16 little or no proof being found against the others. Of the 16 1 died, and 15 therefore remained and still remain in the hands of the military authorities. Their names are as follow: Bryant Thornhill, George J. Collins, John F. Redmon, G. W. Reardon, B. F. Reardon, B. E. Brooks, John Galbreath, Aaron Bryant, John Reynolds, John T. Taylor, John W. Herndon, John W. Murphy, Michael Murphy, Miner Shelborne, William P. Hardwicke.

In regard to these men, instructions were conveyed from this Bureau, under date of the 27th ultimo, to Major Burnett, judge-advocate, to the effect that their cases were triable by a military commission. It was ruled that while they might be charged (as proposed) with "conspiring to kill soldiers of the United States contrary to the laws and customs of war," they were chargeable with "murder" also. "Not" (as was remarkable) "murder in the common acceptation of the term of which, when committed by a citizen in a State where the ordinary criminal courts are open, a military tribunal would not have jurisdiction, but the murder of soldiers of the United States, for the disloyal and treasonable purpose of resisting and defeating the Government in its efforts to suppress the rebellion. Such a crime (it was said), when perpetrated in time of war, might well be held to be a military offense, and, as such, triable and punishable by a military court." It was added that "the circumstances thus conferring jurisdiction should be indicated in the charge and distinctly set forth in the specifications."

Pursuant to these instructions the trial of at least 4 of these prisoners has, as it is understood, been entered upon at Cincinnati. These 4 are supposed to be Thornhill, Collins, Redmon, and George W. Reardon, being the same who were indicted by the grand jury of Coles County, the two former for riot and the two latter for murder.

It may be added here that the grand jury ignored bills of indictment against the other prisoners now held by the military authorities. They, however, found indictments of murder against John H. O'Hair and a number of the leaders of the insurrection who have never been captured.

As it is understood to be the desire of the President to come to a just conclusion in regard to the criminality of these prisoners, especially of those who are believed to have not yet been put on trial, the mass of affidavits and other written testimony, including the sworn statements filed in their defense, have been carefully examined. The following is a brief summary of the evidence in all these cases, including those of the first four:

*Bryant Thornhill.*—Two female witnesses testify that at the time of the commencement of the firing he was at the house of one of them, situated a quarter of a mile from the court-house. They, however, do not state that he remained there during all the firing although they add that when he left he went toward his home, which was in a direction opposite to the square. One of these witnesses is the wife of Dukes, a notorious insurgent; the other, her next neighbor. There is other testimony, mostly, however, on the part of men implicated in the riot, that he left the square just before the firing and advised others to leave, on the ground that there was about to be a difficulty. On the other hand, it is testified by Mullen, a soldier, that he saw Thornhill present at the attack and engaged in firing upon the soldiers. Two others, H. N. Turner and Robert Smith,

testify that they saw him around and in company with O'Hair and his sons, and that he assisted them in taking prisoner one Freesner, the soldier mentioned as having been captured. One of these witnesses states that Thornhill would have shot Freesner if his companions had not prevented him. Lewis Hevell states that on the evening of the 28th Thornhill told him that he was present at the assault and that he shot Jeffries (a soldier), and saw him fall. Richard Stoddard testifies that he saw him counseling with the leading rioters just before the firing; and B. F. Wells and W. T. Wells represent that they were present at a copperhead drill in June, 1863, at which Thornhill made a speech in which he counseled resisting the draft "to the death," and made use of highly disloyal and treasonable language. He is spoken of as the "lieutenant-colonel" of the "Copperhead regiment."

*George J. Collins*, commonly called "*Jeff Collins.*"—No evidence whatever is submitted in behalf of this man. Several witnesses, V. K. Curd, J. A. West, D. P. Morris, and A. N. Graham saw him present at the assault with the other rioters. West testifies that he saw him armed and apparently in the act of shooting at the soldiers. Morris saw him strike a soldier with a club. Graham saw him throwing brickbats. Upon his arrest he admitted to the officer making the arrest, as well as to Colonel Mitchell, that he threw brickbats. In the riot he was slightly wounded.

*John F. Redmon.*—In the defense of this party is introduced the testimony of his brother and two of his friends, who state that they all came into Charleston together on the day in question and returned together to their homes at night. Two of these state that Redmon was sitting with them in the court-room before the riot, and that he went out a little before the firing commenced. These witnesses admit that he was armed and they were also armed with pistols. Other witnesses say that they saw him running into the court-house, as if for refuge, a very short time after the commencement of the firing, and that he remained there during the firing. Between this time, however, and that of his first leaving the court-house he is not accounted for. On the other hand, it is testified by William Ricketts, John W. Reat, J. E. Taylor, George McNutt, William A. Basleton, Felix Sanders, Robert Kimball, and Samuel Bowser that they saw him present at the firing, and McNutt, Basleton, and Bowser state that they saw him in the act of shooting at the soldiers. Basleton adds that a soldier who was fired at by Redmon appeared to be hit, whereupon the latter exclaimed, "By God, I got him." Bowser says that after seeing him shoot with a pistol he saw him go to a wagon and take out a gun and shoot with that. Sanders also saw him take the gun from the wagon and load it.

*G. W. Reardon*, commonly called "*Wash. Reardon*," and *B. F. Reardon.*—No affidavits are presented in behalf of either of these prisoners. The testimony of Colonel Mitchell, George Ross (a soldier), James B. Campbell, Charles Fleming, James F. Feeney, and Samuel Bowser is to the effect that both were present and actively engaged in the firing. The former was seen by Bowser to shoot "several times" at soldiers. Fleming says that he had a soldier's coat on, and that one of the Reardons shot at him "five times." It is fully established that one of them was one of the assailants of Colonel Mitchell, and that the same one attempted to shoot Ross when he came to the colonel's assistance. The weight of the evidence is that this one was G. W. Reardon, but Ross swears that it was the other.

*B. E. Brooks.*—Several witnesses, principally neighbors and friends of this party, who were at Charleston with him on the 28th, state that about the time the firing commenced he mounted his horse and went away peaceably homeward with several others, and that at this time he expressed himself as desirous to get away, since he had no arms. It is added, however, that after riding some distance he returned to Charleston alone with the avowed purpose of getting his saddle, which had been left behind. A large number of citizens, principally of Hutton Township, subscribe a testimonial in which they say that he has always been a man of good and peaceable character. Three witnesses, however, H. G. Green, G. P. Smith, and J. B. Hutchason, state positively that they saw him present and acting with the rioters on the occasion of the attack. These did not see him engaged in the firing, but Smith testifies that when the principal firing was over he saw Brooks on horseback with a revolver in his hand, and heard him ordering or urging his associates to "go back and give them hell." Green testifies that he saw about 30 of the insurgents collected and formed in a line by Brooks, and that he heard him whoop, and cry out, "Bully for you, boys; we gave them hell this time;" and further, that he heard him issue orders to them.

*John Galbreath.*—It is testified by one witness on the part of the defense that very soon after the firing commenced he saw this man run out of the gate on the north side of the square, mount his horse, and ride away. One of his neighbors states that he saw him at his house on the evening of the 28th, and on the next two days; and both this witness and another (the father of the accused) allege that they never knew him to have or carry fire-arms or to engage in any "copperhead" drills, and that his character is that of a quiet, peaceable man. On the other hand, Marcus Hill swears that he saw Galbreath present during the principal firing; that the latter approached and addressed some conversation to him, and did not leave his neighborhood till the firing was about over. David Johnson testifies that just before the firing he saw Galbreath run to the west door of the court-house, and heard him ask two men who were there if they had their pistols ready; that they replied, "yes." That two more men then joined them, and that the five then went rapidly and excitedly to the west side of the square, where the firing commenced almost immediately after; that when the principal part of the shooting was over, he saw Galbreath in a line of some forty of the rioters which had been formed by their leaders east of the court-house.

*Aaron Bryant.*—In behalf of this man it is stated by a neighbor that on the 28th, about 2 p. m., he saw him about 2 miles from Charleston, going with a team toward the residence of one Parrish, and that he informed the witness that he was going there for oats. But another witness, who accompanied Bryant, states that it was about 4 o'clock when the latter started for Parrish's. Members of the Parrish family say that he came to the house "as late as 4 or 5 o'clock," and remained till late in the evening. On the part of the Government a witness, Robert Kimball, clearly identifies Bryant as having been present at the riot and engaged in firing upon the soldiers. He says that he saw him fire "once or more." John Gossett states that on March 23 Bryant invited him to "join their order," and told him that they were about to "clean out" the soldiers and Union citizens. He adds that the latter urged him to go to Charleston on or about the 28th and carry arms with him, stating at the same time that he was then traveling about the country on "that business."

*John Reynolds.*—It is testified by three witnesses that they saw this party run out of the square at the south gate, at the commencement of the firing, as if trying to get out of the way. One of these, however, mentions that he was armed with a pistol. A fourth witness testifies that at the time of the firing he met the accused outside of the town, mounted, with some 15 or 20 others, and heard him advise that they should not go into the town on account of the shooting, which he thought was not yet over. Three other witnesses, however, David Johnson, F. Brown, and J. B. Hutchason, testify that Reynolds was present at or about the time of the firing, and Johnson states that he was armed with a pistol. Brown describes him as seen in consultation with O'Hair before the assault, and as afterward falling into line with others under O'Hair as their leader. He adds that he has often heard Reynolds threaten to resist and "fight against" the draft, and to express his determination, if drafted, to "shoot our own boys." Henry Dittimore testifies that in riding home in company with R. on the evening of the 28th, he heard him state that he had "let one load off."

*John T. Taylor.*—The testimony offered on behalf of this party is quite immaterial upon the question of his participation in the riot. One witness says that he saw him about 4 p. m. run from the court-house square, go to his horse, which was fastened at a little distance, and mount him and ride away. Another states that he loaned his pistol to Taylor in the morning; and a third, that the pistol was picked up in the square after the firing, covered with mud, with all the barrels loaded and with the appearance of not having been discharged. On the other hand, the prisoner is fully identified by N. L. Wyeth as having been present at the attack. This witness says that he "saw a man by the name of Taylor, whom we took as prisoner. He had a pistol in his hand, and seemed to be in the act of shooting; was pointing toward the soldiers." B. F. Wells states in his affidavit that Taylor, on being arrested by him, at first denied, but afterward admitted, that he was in the fight, and that he had lost his pistol there. He also made a similar admission to Colonel Mitchell.

*John W. Herndon.*—No testimony is offered in his defense. N. L. Wyeth identifies him as having seen him "in the crowd with a pistol in his hand." V. K. Curd states that he saw him in Charleston on the morning of the 28th, in company with Collins and a number of others, who were indulging in hostile language in regard to the soldiers. At the time of the firing he "saw Herndon raise a pistol and fire at some person in the court-house yard." When arrested by Wells, Herndon first denied and then admitted that he was present at the fight, and was himself wounded there. A similar statement was made by him to Colonel Mitchell.

*John W. Murphy* and *Michael Murphy.*—(With these prisoners was captured also their father, Miles Murphy, who died while in confinement at Camp Yates.) In behalf of the former, it is endeavored to be shown by members of his family, &c., that he was either at home or at a neighbor's house during all the afternoon of the 28th. But the witnesses do not agree in their statements; one representing that he was at a certain house from 1 till about 5 p. m. of that day, and another that he was there only till 3 o'clock, when he returned home and presently went to another house, and did not again return till dusk. His mother testifies that he had no arms of

any kind in his possession. In behalf of Michael Murphy no evidence is presented. On the part of the prosecution, it is deposed by Robert Kimball, a soldier, that he saw "one of the Murphys" (whose first name he does not know) fire "twice" at himself. George McNutt (a soldier) further testifies as follows:

> Saw three of the Murphys engaged in the fight; one of them was Miles; the other two were his sons. These two young Murphys had guns in their hands. I saw them draw their guns up to their faces as in the act of shooting. They seemed to be pointing at me. I was then trying to get out of their way, and could not say whether they fired at me or not. The old man Murphy seemed to be engaged in loading the guns and handing to others to shoot. These guns seemed to be taken out of a wagon; also saw the old man have a pistol in his hand.

Another fact which goes to establish the participation of the Murphys in the assault is that Freesner, the soldier who was detained as a prisoner by the insurgents, was confined under guard, on the night of the 28th, at the Murphy house.

*Miner Shelborne.*—There is no testimony in regard to the active participation of this man in the firing. On the morning of the 29th he was captured at the house of the Murphys while engaged in guarding Freesner, the soldier taken prisoner by the insurgents. Freesner states that when going toward the railroad station, just after the firing, he was arrested by a band of about 20 rioters and forced to accompany them till late at night, when he was placed under guard of Shelborne and others and confined as aforesaid. Mrs. Murphy represents in her affidavit that when the prisoner was brought to her house, Shelborne said that Freesner was "put in his charge till morning," and that he "seemed to be the one in control."

*William P. Hardwicke.*—In behalf of this party it is represented that on the 28th he was traveling at some distance from Charleston, on his way from Edgar County, Ill., with a company of persons who were starting for the Nevada gold mines; that he staid that night at the house of one Davis; and that early the next morning he visited the house of his uncle, Samuel Hardwicke, which was in the neighborhood, and was there arrested; further, that he was not at the house of the Murphys before his arrest. This testimony, however, is somewhat confused, and Freesner testifies positively that when he was released by the Union soldiers, early on the morning of the 29th, Hardwicke was engaged with Shelborne in guarding him. His language is: "William Hardwicke and Miner Shelborne were on guard when the Union soldiers came up and took them, and released me." He adds also that James Hardwicke and Jordan E. Hardwicke were at the house at the same time, and were arrested by the soldiers. These two men were afterward discharged. Their relationship to the accused is not set forth.

Upon a review of the testimony in these several cases, it seems quite clear that all the above-named prisoners (except the two last) were implicated in the murderous assault which has been detailed, and it is urged that all of them (with these exceptions) be forthwith brought to trial upon the charges mentioned in the letter of instructions from this office of the 27th ultimo.

It is not merely because these men have engaged in murder, assassination, riot, and brutal assault that their prosecution before a military tribunal is thus urged. It is because they have conspired to aim a most deadly blow at the supremacy of the Government at a time when it is engaged in a struggle for its life, and when the villainy of the traitor at home is as fatal and as keenly felt as the hostility of

the open enemy in the field. Their crime was not committed against individuals merely, but directly against the military authority of the nation, and whether viewed as a domestic insurrection *en rapport* with the rebellion, or as a vindictive and treasonable assault upon the soldiery to whom the suppression of that rebellion is intrusted, their act must be regarded as one of momentous public importance, and in the fullest sense a great military crime.

Moreover, it is to be remarked that these prisoners have been for four months in confinement, and that a writ of habeas corpus, issued by the U. S. circuit court, requiring them to be delivered up to the civil authorities, has been disregarded, and the prisoners retained in the hands of the military by the express order of the President. The Government would seem, therefore, to have committed itself to a prompt and special adjudication of their cases as those of offenders against military law.

In regard to Shelborne, it may be said that testimony other than that at present submitted may probably be obtained by the judge-advocate, to the effect that this man personally participated in the riot, but in the absence of such evidence both he and Hardwicke may be brought to trial upon a separate charge of violation of the laws of war in illegally imprisoning a soldier of the United States.

It remains only to add that, though many of the more prominent actors in this bloody revolt have thus far escaped, they should be deemed as public enemies, and if the capture of any of them be hereafter consummated by the military authorities, that they should be brought to immediate trial with a view to their summary punishment in case of conviction by a military court.

The names of those alluded to are as follows: John H. O'Hair, James O'Hair, Jesse O'Hair, Henderson O'Hair, B. F. Toland, Ellsbury Hanks, Benjamin Dukes, B. F. Williams, John Frazier, Robert McLain, Robert Winkler, Alexander Rodgers, Calvin Rice, Joseph Carter.

With these may also be included as present and concerned with the foregoing in the assault and riot: Young E. Winkler, G. W. Toland, George Thomas, Dick Robinson, Harry Ray, John Cooper, James Houck, ——— Wetherall.

Respectfully submitted.

A. A. HOSMER,
*Major and Acting Judge-Advocate-General.*

To His Excellency A. LINCOLN,
*President of the United States.*

[Indorsement No. 1.]

NOVEMBER 4, 1864.

Let these prisoners be sent back to Coles County, Ill., those indicted be surrendered to the sheriff of said county, and the others be discharged.

A. LINCOLN.

[Indorsement No. 2.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
*November* 5, 1864.

Referred to the Adjutant-General to cause the execution of the order of the President.

By order of the Secretary of War:

C. A. DANA,
*Assistant Secretary of War.*

**MARCH 28, 1864.—Scouts to Caperton's Ferry, Ala.**

*Report of Col. James S. Robinson, Eighty-second Ohio Infantry, commanding brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., THIRD DIV., ELEVENTH CORPS,
*March* 28, 1864.

CAPTAIN: A patrol from the First Alabama Cavalry, which returned at 5 p. m. on yesterday, reported themselves to have been driven back from Caperton's Ferry to Island Creek by a detachment of about 50 rebel cavalry. They declared that they exchanged shots with scattering bushwhackers near the house of one Caperton, adjoining the ferry, and that the enemy suddenly afterward appeared in such numbers as to compel the retreat of the cavalry.

Upon receipt of this news I immediately dispatched a detachment of 10 men and a lieutenant of the Second Kentucky Cavalry, with orders to patrol the road as far as Island Creek and farther, if found to be safe, and to return about daylight. This patrol returned at 7 a. m. this morning. The lieutenant commanding reported that he went as far as within 4 miles of Caperton's Ferry without seeing the enemy, and that he could not learn that they had been in the vicinity during the previous day, thus partly contradicting the story of the Alabama cavalry patrol.

At 9 a. m. this morning I sent out a second detachment from the Second Kentucky Cavalry, with orders to go as far as Caperton's Ferry (if found to be safe) and ascertain the truth as to the presence of the enemy in that vicinity. I had also previous to that hour sent a mounted patrol from the First Alabama Cavalry to scour the country and co-operate with an infantry patrol from the One hundred and first Illinois.

At 12.30 p. m. cannonading was heard down the river, which I finally ascertained to be one of Brigadier-General Geary's batteries shelling a small party of 4 or 5 of the enemy seen from that side of the river below the point of the island. The cannonading continued at intervals for half an hour.

I have sent out a reconnoitering party of six companies, 125 men, under Lieut. Col. D. Thomson, of the Eighty-second Ohio, with orders to ascertain the truth with reference to the various and contradicting rumors which have been received.

I respectfully request authority to send a strong detachment of infantry to Caperton's Ferry to-morrow, having had information from various sources that the enemy has a picket at that point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. ROBINSON,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. EUGENE WIEGEL, *A. A. G.*

**MARCH 28, 1864.—Skirmish on Obey's River, Tenn.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Edward H. Hobson, U. S. Army, commanding District of Southern Central Kentucky.*

CAVE CITY, KY., *March* 30, 1864.

COLONEL: I have just received by couriers from Cumberland River the following information: Captain Watson, of Thirteenth

Kentucky Cavalry, fought Colonel Hughs on Obey's River in Tennessee; captured 2, killing 3. Hughs' men threw away their guns; left their horses. It is thought by Colonel Weatherford that Hughs cannot possibly get out, for the reason that our troops are so disposed and stationed, and will prevent his escape.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. H. HOBSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieutenant-Colonel FARLEIGH,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Louisville.*

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## MARCH 28-APRIL 16, 1864.—Operations in Eastern Kentucky.

### SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

March 31, 1864.—Skirmish at Forks of Beaver.
April 5, 1864.—Skirmish on Quicksand Creek.
7, 1864.—Skirmish on Brushy Creek.
13, 1864.—Skirmish at Paintsville.
14, 1864.—Action at Half Mountain, on Licking River.
Affair near Booneville.
16, 1864.—Skirmish at Salyersville.

### REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Edward H. Hobson, U. S. Army, commanding Fifth Division, Twenty-third Army Corps.
No. 2.—Col. George W. Gallup, Fourteenth Kentucky Infantry, commanding District of Eastern Kentucky.
No. 3.—Itinerary of the U. S. forces in the District of Eastern Kentucky, March 28-April 14.
No. 4.—Lieut. Col. Thomas Johnson, Kentucky Cavalry, commanding Confederate Forces.

### No. 1.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Edward H. Hobson, U. S. Army, commanding Fifth Division, Twenty-third Army Corps.*

LEXINGTON, KY.,
*April* 16, 1864.

SIR: Colonel Gallup pursued rebels to Salyersville; killed and wounded 25; captured 100 horses, 200 saddles, 50 prisoners, among them Colonel Clay. Colonel True, with Fortieth Kentucky and Eleventh Michigan, is beyond West Liberty. Have captured 6 prisoners. Colonel Brown is at Irwin; reports no enemy in that vicinity. Has sent scouting party some distance beyond to develop enemy, if any.

E. H. HOBSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieut. Col. T. B. FARLEIGH,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Louisville.*

LEXINGTON, KY., *April* 17, 1864.

Citizens of Booneville, 40 strong, whipped, on the 14th instant, Fred Gray's guerrillas, numbering 75. Citizens report no enemy in Perry or Breathitt Counties. Whitesburg, in Letcher County, evacuated by rebel forces lately there. Jack May, their colonel, recalled them to re-enforce rebel Colonel Edmonds [Edmundson], near Piketon. Colonel True's command will possibly meet them. He should be at Salyersville to-day. I apprehend but little danger.

E. H. HOBSON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieut. Col. THOMAS B. FARLEIGH,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Louisville, Ky.*

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No. 2.

*Reports of Col. George W. Gallup, Fourteenth Kentucky Infantry, commanding District of Eastern Kentucky.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF EASTERN KENTUCKY,
*Louisa, Ky., April* 2, 1864.

GENERAL: My mounted men, under command of Lieut. Col. S. M. Ferguson, met a superior force of rebels at the Forks of Beaver, Va., on the 31st of March. A skirmish ensued, our men driving them back until the rebels were re-enforced, and the colonel was in turn driven. He reports the rebels advancing from Abingdon in considerable force, by the way of Guyan, Tug, and Louisa Rivers, and the Pound Gap route ; avowed destination Louisa.

General Morgan was at Abingdon the 27th of March.

I have sent Colonel Mims to re-enforce Ferguson.

I will keep you informed of the movement, if true, of which Lieutenant-Colonel Ferguson has no doubt.

My citizen scouts, who are reliable, have just arrived from Gladesville, and report that an immediate movement into Kentucky is contemplated, and they think now moving.

GEO. W. GALLUP,
*Colonel, Commanding Dist. Eastern Ky.*

General BURBRIDGE,
*Commanding District of Kentucky.*

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PAINTSVILLE, KY., *April* 13, 1864—10 a. m.

GENERAL : I am attacked at this point by, I suppose, about 1,000 rebels ; we are fighting. We had a race for the best position ; we got it ; I can hold it. I have 750 men ; I have about 500 militia and four companies of the Fourteenth at Louisa. They can hold that place if they attempt to go below us. We are well supplied for five days with provisions. I have no fear for the result here if the Forty-fifth or other regiments are near enough and could come [by] the Salyersville road toward Pound Gap and get in their rear. If they hold us here any time they might get bagged.

Yours,

GEO. W. GALLUP,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brigadier-General BURBRIDGE, *Lexington, Ky.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF EASTERN KENTUCKY,
*Half Mountain, Licking River, April* 14, 1864.

GENERAL: I pursued the enemy to Half Mountain, Licking River, 13 miles above Salyersville, surprised him at 12.30 a. m. to-day, capturing his pickets. The engagement lasted five hours. We have captured as near as I can find out over 100 horses, 200 saddles, 200 stand of arms; killed and mortally wounded 25, took 50 prisoners (among them Col. E. F. Clay, mortally wounded); many horses killed. Our loss 4 wounded, 1 seriously, none killed. It is a complete rout. We will camp on the field to-night. My men are worn. I shall send my best mounted men for a few hours on their track.

Yours, respectfully,

GEO. W. GALLUP,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. E. H. HOBSON,
*Lexington, Ky.*

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LOUISA, *April* 18, 1864.

COLONEL: I sent a dispatch from the battle-ground on Half Mountain, which upon my arrival here I find was sent to General Hobson.

Our success was complete; on the 14th we surprised the enemy, captured 60 prisoners, wounded and killed 60, captured 200 horses, 400 saddles, 300 small-arms, all their tents and equipage. With 200 more men I would have captured their whole command. The general, in his note of the 8th instant, directs me to mount this whole command. Does he intend for me to mount the Fourteenth Kentucky? Can I order the company at Greenup to join their regiment? I need them. All quiet this side of the mountain. I have just arrived from Paintsville, where most of my command are. Will return this evening.

Yours,

GEO. W. GALLUP,
*Colonel Commanding.*

ACTING ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
*District of Kentucky, Louisville, Ky.*

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No. 3.

*Itinerary of the U. S. Forces in the District of Eastern Kentucky, March* 28–*April* 14.*

On March 28, learning that a force of rebels had crossed Pound Gap into Kentucky, Lieutenant-Colonel Ferguson, Thirty-ninth Kentucky Volunteers, with all the men that could be mounted (140 men), was sent from Louisa, Ky., to the forks of Beaver, 60 miles distant. On the same day Captain Thornbury was ordered from Peach Orchard up Rock Castle to get in their rear and join Colonel Ferguson at a given time.

April 1, Colonel Ferguson came upon the enemy at the point designated. Captain Thornbury, by a sudden rise in the river, was prevented from joining the colonel as ordered. A skirmish ensued, our

*From returns of the District of Eastern Kentucky and of the First Brigade, District of Kentucky.

men capturing several prisoners, but lost all but 1 lieutenant. The enemy was double our strength. Ferguson fell back to Prestonburg, 10 miles, and was there joined by Captain Thornbury on the 2d, and then with his command fell back to Paintsville.

April 3, Colonel Mims, with one company of the Fourteenth Kentucky and one company of the Thirty-ninth Kentucky, joined Ferguson at Paintsville.

April 4, a detachment of Company I, Fourteenth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry (17 men), under direction of Reuben Patrick, an able and daring scout, was sent from Paintsville 40 miles to watch any rebel movement on the borders of Magoffin County.

April 5, discovered a part of two companies of rebel cavalry, about 85 strong, under command of a Captain Bradshaw, in camp on Quicksand, in Breathitt County, Ky., and at 11 o'clock at night, in a daring and gallant manner, surprised and charged their camp, killing and wounding 1 lieutenant and 7 men, capturing all their horses, but was unable to bring off the field but 24 horses and 3 prisoners.

April 6, Colonel Mims was ordered with three companies of infantry from Paintsville, and Major Auxier, Thirty-ninth Kentucky, with three companies of mounted men of Fourteenth and Thirty-ninth Kentucky, from Louisa, Ky., to pursue the rebel Colonel Prentice, then on John's Creek. Colonel Mims crossed Sandy, up John's Creek, and after a march of 60 miles came [April 7] upon Prentice on Brushy. A skirmish ensued, but the rebels, being mounted, escaped with a loss of a few men wounded, some horses, and stolen goods. Major Auxier did not come up until the enemy was routed, although he traveled 55 miles in less than twenty-four hours, over a country with scarcely any road.

April 8, Colonel Mims returned to Paintsville. Colonel Gallup, having gathered all the horses and equipped all that could be equipped for duty, left Louisa and joined his command at Paintsville. The high water prevented a forward movement until the 13th, when an order was issued for the troops to move at 12 m. promptly, with five days' rations and 60 rounds of ammunition, under light marching orders. The mounted pickets were withdrawn to prepare forage and rations. Two hundred of the enemy appeared at 8 a. m. (13th) 4 miles from camp. The entire cavalry force was left across the river to meet them, it being the main road. They came in rear of the camp and attacked at 10 a. m. The enemy were repulsed with loss of 2 killed, 7 prisoners, and 2 wounded, with several horses and mules left in our hands. Our force followed, except a guard for public property left at Paintsville. A flag of truce was sent in by the enemy, asking for the privilege of burying their dead and for the exchange of prisoners, as they had 2 of our men. This was done to gain time and delay our column, then moving, one and a half hours. The pursuit was continued until the 14th.

April 14, at 12 m., our forces attacked the enemy in front and rear, surprised and routed him. The Thirty-ninth Kentucky (mounted), Colonel Mims commanding, charged their camp with a yell (the first charge they ever made). It was a gallant affair and done without faltering, Lieutenant Eberman, Company B, Thirty-ninth Kentucky, leading the charge; Colonel Mims near the head of the column, Colonel Gallup on the center. An engagement of near four and a half hours ensued, our left in that time being driven but gaining their ground again in a few minutes. Colonel Clay leading made a desperate charge on our center, which stood without giving a step, and

Colonel Clay falling the rebels fled. The enemy lost 45 prisoners, a large number of wounded taken off the field, several hundred saddles, 250 stand of small-arms, and about 200 horses, all their tents, camp equipage, &c. Our loss in both engagements, 1 killed, 3 slightly and 1 severely wounded, 2 taken prisoners (since escaped and joined us). We had at one time 150 prisoners who had surrendered, but a detachment of our men fired into them, supposing they were holding the position where they were, and drove them into the woods, where they escaped; with two companies more the whole brigade would have been captured.

Lieut. Col. Orlando Brown, jr., Fourteenth Kentucky Volunteers, with five companies of infantry (300 men), gained their rear and brought on the action at Half Mountain, Magoffin County, Ky. The Fourteenth Kentucky sustained their well-earned reputation. Lieut. E. J. Roberts, acting assistant adjutant-general, was on the field and rendered valuable service during the action.

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No. 4.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Thomas Johnson, Kentucky Cavalry, commanding Confederate Forces.*

GUEST'S STATION, WISE COUNTY, VA.,
*April* 21, 1864.

I have the honor to lay before you my report of the fight on Puncheon Creek, Magoffin County, Ky., on the 14th instant. By the unfortunate occurrence of Lieutenant-Colonel Clay getting wounded and falling into the hands of the enemy, I am in command of this brigade, known as Hodge's.

On the afternoon of the 13th instant, by order of Colonel Clay, this brigade was put under marching orders from the right fork of Beaver Creek in the direction of Paintsville. After marching that afternoon and all night through deep mud, creeks, and much quicksand, we arrived in sight of Paintsville about 8 o'clock in the morning, two hours too late for a surprise, which was caused by the terrible condition of the roads. The enemy's pickets, which were stationed about 1 mile from the town, were charged by Captain Fowle's company and run in, killing 1 and capturing 2.

In this charge Captain Fowle lost 2 men killed and 7 prisoners.

We found the enemy in a very strong position with a greatly superior force, and Colonel Clay very correctly decided, as I think, to fall back. We marched that evening and night to the vicinity of Salyersville, in Magoffin County, and encamped.

Early in the morning we moved on to the Licking Meadows and up a little creek called Puncheon, a distance of only about 3 miles, and encamped. The horses of Clay's and Johnson's battalions were mostly loose, grazing in the meadow. Four companies were out on scouting duty, heavy details were out foraging, and some of our tired men lying asleep, when we were suddenly surprised and attacked by a large force of the enemy. Many of our horses were shot early in the action, stampeding not only the horses but a great many of the men. In a short time a rally was made and the fight began in earnest, and the struggle was who should hold the camp. For over three hours the men who remained and participated in the fight did their whole duty, and could not fight better. Through the gallantry of

Colonel Clay, Major Holladay, Captain Leforgee, and other officers, the enemy were driven from the mountain north of the camp, which was held until Colonel Clay received a wound in the eye and nose, and had to be taken from the field.

At this stage of the fight I assumed command. The enemy by this time had extended his line at least 1 mile, holding both ends of the road, and their right wing resting on the main road and only one by which we could get out, forming a semicircle. Major McAfee, who had been gallantly contending with a largely superior force on our extreme left, was about to be cut off, and fell back, and as the enemy were moving from above and below we moved over to the mountain on the north side of our camp and held it until near dark. Our ammunition being about out, and a great many having already left the field, we retired in good order.

I cannot learn of but 2 being killed, 10 or 12 wounded, most of whom fell into the enemy's hands, Colonel Clay being among the number. Many horses were killed, and some were so frightened they ran into the woods and enemy's lines. We lost most of our private baggage.

But I must repeat, men and officers never behaved better than those who staid with us through the contest. Our force was small—much less than the enemy believed. I do not think there were more than 200 of our men engaged at any one time. I have no means of knowing the enemy's strength correctly, or their loss. Prisoners and persons coming out since the fight tell me there were three regiments, the Fourteenth, Thirty-ninth, and Forty-fifth Kentucky, commanded by General [Colonel] Gallup. From all I can learn their force must have been 1,400 or 1,500. We have a great many stragglers coming in, and I do not think they got many of them as prisoners. Our retreat was over the most rugged and lofty mountains.

Very respectfully,

THOS. JOHNSON,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Brigade Cavalry.*

Major ROWLAND.

P. S.—I have the honor to state that on yesterday I received a communication from Kentucky, sent by the friends of General Breckinridge to him, that the Yankees under General Stoneman, 10,000 strong, were marching this way. They had supplied themselves with 10 days' cooked rations, and were moving from Lexington for Virginia. The courier's horse broke down. He had been riding night and day from Clay's Ferry, on the Kentucky River, between Richmond and Lexington. His name is Henry Wild, near Clay's Ferry. They were well mounted, and had several pieces of light cannon.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF EAST TENNESSEE,
*Abingdon, April 28,* 1864.

Respectfully forwarded as a report of the affair.

There seems now to have been want of vigilance on the part of some officer, but the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel Clay prevents a full investigation. These troops were under orders at the time to move out of Kentucky.

Respectfully,

S. B. BUCKNER,
*Major-General.*

**MARCH 29, 1864.—Affair at Caperton's Ferry, Ala.**

*Reports of Col. David Ireland, One hundred and thirty-seventh New York Infantry.*

STEVENSON, ALA.,
*March* 29, 1864.

SIR: While a party of Sixty-sixth Ohio Volunteers were assisting refugees to cross Tennessee River at Caperton's Ferry this afternoon, they were attacked by a party of mounted guerrillas, who fired on them, wounding 2 officers. Three of our men were on the south side of the river, and are supposed to have been captured. Nothing else of importance.

DAVID IRELAND,
*Colonel, Commanding Post.*

Brigadier-General WHIPPLE.

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HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Stevenson, Ala., March* 31, 1864.

CAPTAIN: In reply to your communication of this date calling for a more explicit report of the wounding of 2 officers and the capture of 3 men of my command on the 29th instant, I have the honor to submit the following:

A detachment of four companies from the Sixty-sixth Regiment Ohio Volunteers are stationed at Caperton's Ferry, on the Tennessee River, about 4 miles from this post, at which point refugees from the south are continually crossing.

About 1 p. m. yesterday, as Captain Morgan and Lieutenant Organ, with 4 men, were on the south bank of the river assisting a refugee to ferry himself and his household goods over the river, they were fired upon by a party of mounted guerrillas, numbering about 20, who demanded their surrender. The two officers threw themselves into the bottom of the boat and pushed it into the stream, when they were again fired upon, Captain Morgan being severely wounded in the thigh and Lieutenant Organ slightly in the hand. They drifted out into the stream and escaped to the opposite bank of the river. The 4 men were a short distance above where the boat was lying, and were unable to reach it. Three of them were captured, 1 effecting his escape by hiding under the river bank, where he was found by a force of our men who were immediately thrown over the river.

Captain Dye, Sixty-sixth Ohio Volunteers, immediately crossed with 40 men and pursued the rebels for 3 or 4 miles, but was unable to come up with them.

The band of guerrillas was commanded by Capt. Sam. Norwood, who is well known in these parts as a bushwhacker and negro thief. In addition to the 3 Federal soldiers they captured the refugee whom our men were assisting to cross and a man by the name of Barnes, who had made himself obnoxious to them by frequently bringing information to the Union troops stationed at this ferry.

No permission was given for Captain Morgan to cross the river, but it is usual to render all possible assistance to deserters and refugees desiring to escape from the rebel lines.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID IRELAND,
*Colonel, Commanding Post.*

Capt. R. H. WILBUR, *A. A. A. G.*

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**MARCH 29–31, 1864.—Scout from Lookout Valley to Deer Head Cove, Ga.**

*Report of Capt. George W. Woolly, One hundred and second Illinois Infantry.*

HDQRS. ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND ILL. VOL. INFTY.,
*Lookout Valley, Tenn., March* 31, 1864.

SIR: In accordance with your orders I proceeded with 13 men, on the night of the 29th, to Trenton, which I reached at daylight of the 30th, where I remained until 7 o'clock and then moved to the Easley farm, but having no reliable information of the movements of the enemy I procured a guide of the name of Long and ascended the mountains at that point by what is known as the State road. I then followed the crest of the mountain to a point opposite Trenton, where I descended by a path known as the Seaton or Silton Gap, without seeing an enemy. I learned from a resident of the mountain by the name of McKaig that there were on Sunday last about 20 or 30 rebel soldiers on the mountain at that point, and last heard from they were proceeding toward a gap known as Campbell's Gap on the other side of the mountain. I could discover no trace of an enemy, either by sign of camp or track of horses since the rain.

While at Long's house in the valley, some 4 or 5 miles above Trenton, I discovered a flag on the Raccoon Mountain at a point, I should judge, about 7 miles above Trenton. Having no glass my view was very indistinct, but should think it was used for signal purposes; and while on Lookout Mountain I observed smoke in that vicinity, much resembling the smoke of a camp. One of the rebel soldiers that was on Lookout Mountain on Sunday wished to ascertain from McKaig the disposition of the Federal forces at Wauhatchie; also wished to know if there were Federal forces stationed at Whiteside's, and also stated that picking up deserters was not his present business. He asked McKaig if he (McKaig) thought he could get to Bridgeport, and rather inferred that he was ordered to that place. I observed the Lookout Valley from different points on Lookout Mountain, but could discover no movements of the enemy therein.

GEO. W. WOOLLY,
*Captain, Commanding Scout.*

BENJAMIN HARRISON,
*Col. Comdg. 1st Brig., 1st Div., Eleventh Army Corps.*

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**MARCH 30, 1864.—Scout from Columbus to Clinton and Moscow, Ky.**

*Report of Col. William H. Lawrence, Thirty-fourth New Jersey Infantry.*

HDQRS. OF THE POST, *Columbus, Ky., March* 31, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I accompanied Lieutenant Stanley on a scout yesterday, with 50 men.

We proceeded first to Clinton, 12 miles from here. On the road met 15 of the enemy, who were followed up so fast that they threw away their arms.

About one-quarter of a mile from Clinton were informed that there were 300 or more of the enemy in the town, at the entrance to which is a strong breast-work; before this rode 2 or 3 officers, who appeared so confident that it was not thought safe to charge. Skirmishers were thrown out, and as they advanced toward the breast-works the officers galloped off. A charge was immediately made, but the enemy, between 40 and 60 strong, escaped. Had it not been for the false information given, the greater part would have been captured. The party giving it should have been arrested.

Moscow was then headed for; upon arriving within one-quarter of a mile of the town 12 men were dismounted and sent round by the railroad to guard the back roads. We then charged into the town. After this we returned to Columbus, having made 32 miles in nine hours, capturing 3 Confederate soldiers, 2 conscripts, 2 guerrillas signalizing the enemy, 2 men who had the enemy and concealed weapons in their houses, besides arms and about 50 head of horses and mules.

From information received, the enemy under Faulkner, 1,200 strong, are at Lodgetown; from there will move this day toward Jackson, Tenn.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. HUDSON LAWRENCE,
*Colonel 34th New Jersey Volunteers, Comdg. Post.*

Capt. J. H. ODLIN,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**MARCH 30, 1864.—Attack on Outpost at Snyder's Bluff, Miss.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Lawrence S. Ross, C. S. Army.*

HEADQUARTERS TEXAS CAVALRY BRIGADE,
*March* 31, 1864.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report that on yesterday morning I sent Colonel Jones, in command of Third and Ninth Texas Cavalry, to attack the outpost of the force at Snyder's Bluff, destroy Yankee plantations, &c. Report just received from him informs me that he had captured a negro corral, 100 mules, some negroes, burned all their quarters, and killed 30. He was fighting or skirmishing with three regiments Yankee infantry and some cavalry in breast-works when courier left. He will not attack unless an advantage is offered.

Very respectfully, &c., your obedient servant,

L. S. ROSS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieutenant MARTIN,
*Aide-de-Camp and Asst. Adjt. Gen., Jackson's Cav. Div.*

**MARCH 30, 1864.—Scout from Athens, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, U. S. Army, commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

ATHENS, ALA.,
*March* 31, 1864.

We captured the celebrated guerrilla Captain Moore, also Colonel Mead and 30 men.

G. M. DODGE,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General MCPHERSON,
*Huntsville.*

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**MARCH 30, 1864.—Scout from Woodville, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Peter J. Osterhaus, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.*

WOODVILLE, ALA.,
*March* 31, 1864.

Learning that some of Mead's guerrillas were hovering near mouth of Clear Creek, 14 miles from here, I sent out an expedition last night. They have just returned, having gobbled 1 lieutenant, 1 first sergeant, and 3 men. The captain was not with the party, but is expected daily from Tennessee River.

P. JOS. OSTERHAUS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.*

Maj. R. R. TOWNES,
*Huntsville, Ala.*

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**MARCH 30-APRIL 1, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Lookout Valley, Tenn., to McLemore's Cove, Ga.**

*Report of Col. Adolphus Buschbeck, Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry, commanding brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., SECOND DIV., ELEVENTH CORPS,
*Lookout Valley, Tenn., April* 5, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that, in accordance with orders received from headquarters Eleventh Army Corps, I left camp on the morning of March 30 with two regiments of infantry and 50 mounted infantry. Encamped that night between Trenton and Crawfish Creek, with scouts ahead as far as Crawfish Creek. Left camp March 31 at daybreak, took possession of Johnson's Crook, keeping the roads to Lebanon and La Fayette well guarded. Went through Cooper's and Stevens' Gaps, and visited McLemore's Cove. Was on the mountain ridge, but could perceive nothing of the enemy.

Loyal citizens informed me that only a few rebel scouts have been seen there lately. After having reconnoitered the country well I

marched at 4 p. m. back toward Trenton; encamped near Crawfish Creek; broke camp at daybreak April 1, and arrived here in the afternoon.

I am, colonel, respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. BUSCHBECK,
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

Lieut. Col. T. A. MYSENBURG,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Eleventh Corps.*

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**MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 1864.—Scout from Bridgeport, Ala., to Caperton's Ferry and vicinity.**

*Report of Col. Charles Candy, Sixty-sixth Ohio Infantry, commanding First Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION,
*Bridgeport, Ala., April 2, 1864.*

GENERAL: In compliance with instructions of the 31st of March, 1864, to proceed with two regiments of this brigade down the south bank of the Tennessee to reconnoiter the country between this point and Caperton's Ferry, and capture, if possible, any guerrillas or parties of the enemy that are in the neighborhood, I have the honor to submit the following report relating to the fulfillment of the same:

Taking the Fifth Ohio and Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, about 400 men, I proceeded down the south bank of the Tennessee to the mouth of Island Creek; encamped for the night.

The morning of the 1st proceeded up the north bank of that creek and crossed about 1½ miles above Phillips' Mill, down the south bank of the creek to the river, and thence down the river to Caperton's Ferry; sent troops upon all the roads and trails, and completely scoured the country at the foot of the mountains. Could hear that straggling parties in squads of from 1 to 10 of the enemy made visits in that neighborhood, but could not fix upon any parties for certain who harbored them. At the ferry (Caperton's) learned that a party of troops stationed on the Stevenson side crossed some time last week, and had committed some depredations (of what nature could not positively learn) upon the property of a rebel living some 6 miles below, and the owner had collected a party for the purpose of retaliation, which they did several days since, wounding 1 or 2 officers, and capturing 3 enlisted men. From Caperton's Ferry took the mountain road to Winston's as far as Cashe's Mill, near Raccoon Creek; encamped for the night.

This morning (the 2d) moved at 6.45 a. m., taking the mountain road (Long's) in a northerly direction to the crossing of Island Creek above Phillips' Mill. Several cavalry had passed during the night, but could not learn where or to which army they belonged (supposed to the rebel mail carriers). On my arrival at Island Creek, on my return, I returned the same road I had marched, nothing transpiring worth mentioning or of interest.

At Caperton's house I picked up 2 men who could give no account of themselves. Finding that they had never taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, I deemed it right to bring them to this post. I also brought to this post a man by the name of Shumake, whom I found with passes from both armies and quite a sum of Confederate money (some $80) in his possession. His mother (Mrs. Shumake) has been in the habit of drawing rations from the

Government. In her house I found about 80 bushels of corn, 20 of wheat, 3 barrels of flour, 10 bushels of rye, and some 200 pounds of bacon. With the prisoner I brought a horse, saddle, and bridle for him to ride, the property of his mother. I also picked up two other horses, and turned them over to the provost-marshal with the prisoner; also the money of Shumake's. Returned with my command to this post, arriving here about 3 p. m. this day.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHAS. CANDY,
*Col. Sixty-sixth Ohio Vet. Vols., Commanding Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. JOHN W. GEARY,
*Commanding Second Division.*

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**APRIL 2-4, 1864.—Reconnaissances from Powder Springs Gap toward Rogersville and Bull's Gap, Tenn.**

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, Fourth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, FOURTH ARMY CORPS,
*Powder Springs Gap, April 3,* 1864—3 p. m.

GENERAL: Both of my reconnaissances have returned. Colonel Anderson, with six regiments of infantry and a detachment of cavalry, was sent up this valley with instructions when he reached the forks of the road above Rutledge (one road leads up the valley, the other across the Holston toward Bull's Gap, &c.) to leave a regiment there; to send three regiments of infantry and a part of the cavalry up the valley to Bean's Station, and two regiments and the remainder of the cavalry to the Holston. These instructions were carried out. The citizens informed him that the cavalry had left Rogersville early last week, and they all concurred in the opinion that Longstreet's forces had been withdrawn toward Virginia. Colonel Anderson talked with a Mr. Smith, a well-known Union man above Rutledge, who told him he believed Longstreet's forces had or were leaving the State, because all the rebel citizens believed it and were much depressed about it. Colonel Knefler was sent with three regiments of infantry up Clinch Valley. He went up the valley to a point opposite and north of Bean's Station. He saw no enemy. He was informed that the companies of Home Guards which he encountered there on his former reconnaissance had joined the cavalry at Rogersville, and left with it. The citizens told him the cavalry left Rogersville last Tuesday, and the reported destination was Georgia. He could obtain no definite information in regard to Longstreet's movements. The party which I started to Cumberland Gap on Thursday last has just returned, bringing the accompanying dispatch* from General Garrard. The party passed through Tazewell going and returning, but saw no enemy. Colonels Anderson and Knefler report the roads they marched over as execrable.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. J. WOOD,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. J. D. COX,
*Chief of Staff.*

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* Not found as an inclosure.

POWDER SPRINGS GAP,
*April* 4, 1864—9 p. m.

GENERAL: Your note of this day evidently, though dated April 5, is just received. My reconnaissance returned this afternoon, having been absent three days. Colonel Anderson was sent up this valley with orders to divide his command beyond Rutledge, sending a portion of it toward Rogersville and the remainder to the Holston, on the road leading to Bull's Gap, Greeneville, &c. All the citizens informed him the rebel cavalry had left Rogersville, and all concurred in the opinion that Longstreet's forces had fallen back, and, as they supposed, with the intention of leaving the State. A Mr. Smith, a well-known Union man above Rutledge, told Colonel Anderson he believed this was the case, because all the rebel citizens believe it to be over the Watauga. He further said it was generally understood Longstreet's forces had been withdrawn to Bristol.

I also forwarded yesterday afternoon a dispatch just then received from General Garrard. He reported he had nothing special to add to his former dispatch, except the report of several rebel deserters, who said Jones had fallen back to the salt-works above Abingdon.

I cannot conceive what has become of my dispatch of yesterday afternoon. It was addressed to General Cox at Strawberry Plains.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. J. WOOD,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Major-General SCHOFIELD.

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**APRIL 7, 1864.—Skirmish at Woodall's Bridge, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. James H. Clanton, C. S. Army.*

HEADQUARTERS CLANTON'S BRIGADE,
*Danville, Ala., April* 11, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I beg to report that on the 2d instant I reached Whitesburg; found the enemy shelling my pickets across the Tennessee River at a distance of 800 yards, but doing no damage. From Whitesburg I proceeded to this place via Somerville with 250 men.

On Thursday afternoon, 7th instant, about 6 o'clock, on a reconnaissance with my staff and 40 men, being then in advance of my command about 8 miles, I met the Yankee cavalry from Decatur, 325 strong, at Woodall's Bridge, 18 miles east of this place, en route to Somerville. I at first supposed and was informed by my guide that they were Confederates. Their advance fired upon Colonel Lowe and myself at a distance of 50 yards. With my staff and 40 men I charged the enemy and he gave way. I then brought up my reserve, but by this time the enemy had retreated, tearing up the bridges behind him. I, however, dismounted my command and followed, but could not overtake him.

The next day (Friday) I reached this point.

On Saturday the enemy's cavalry were out again. I followed it to within a mile of Decatur, but was unable to overtake it. I drove in his pickets at this point, losing in this skirmish only 1 horse.

In the engagement referred to on 7th instant my men behaved well, my staff leading them in the charge.

Col. William Lowe, of Huntsville, was conspicuous for his gallantry. He dismounted and picked up the colors (which had been dropped

by a man riding an unruly horse, who had them in charge temporarily) within 100 yards of the enemy under a heavy fire.

My scouts hover around Decatur. The force there is variously estimated from 1,000 to 10,000. I placed it at the former, but believe it was re-enforced yesterday.

The people in this valley are patriotic and liberal, but cannot support more than one brigade. I leave in the morning for Moulton and Russellville to be absent a few days, and will report more fully upon my return.

I remain, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. H. CLANTON,
*Brigadier-General.*

Capt. JOHN C. BURCH, *A. A. G.*

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**APRIL 8, 1864.—Skirmish at Paint Rock Bridge, Ala.**

*Report of Lieut. Col. Alfred B. Wade, Seventy-third Indiana Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTY-THIRD INDIANA INFANTRY,
*Larkinsville, Ala., April* 11, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that a squad of 15 men from Company D of this regiment, under command of Corpl. William H. H. Reed, met the enemy (supposed by them to number at least 40) near Paint Rock bridge on the 8th instant. Although surprised and driven back after a short contest, yet the corporal brought his men into camp in perfect order, with a loss, however, of 1 man killed and 1 severely wounded. The loss of the enemy is unknown, but reported by the men and a citizen negro to vary from 2 to 4 killed, and 3 wounded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. WADE,
*Lieutenant-Colonel Seventy-third Indiana.*

Lieut. CHARLES T. HEWITT, *A. A. A. G.*

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**APRIL 10, 1864.—Scout to Dedmon's Trace, Ga.**

*Report of Col. Robert H. G. Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, Second Cavalry Division.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Ringgold, Ga., April* 10, 1864.

SIR: At 3.30 this a. m. I sent out a party under command of Captain Warner, Fourth Ohio Cavalry, to endeavor to capture a rebel picket of 50 men, stationed near the Dedmon Trace. In consequence of the want of knowledge of their actual position Captain Warner struck the picket from the north instead of the east, and succeeded in capturing but 4 of them, privates of the Second and Fourth Tennessee Cavalry. There are two brigades, Humes' and Wade's, stationed at Tunnel Hill, under command of General Kelly.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. G. MINTY,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. WHIPPLE, *Chief of Staff.*

**APRIL 11, 1864.—Scout from Stevenson to Caperton's Ferry, Ala., and vicinity.**

*Report of Maj. Lewis R. Stegman, One hundred and second New York Infantry.*

HDQRS. 102D NEW YORK VETERAN VOLUNTEERS,
*Stevenson, Ala., April* 12, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that in conformity with the orders and instructions received from your headquarters, dated April 10, 1864, I proceeded with a detachment of 60 men and 3 commissioned officers to arrest several prominent citizens residing on the south bank of the Tennessee River, near Caperton's Ferry.

The detachment commenced its march at 4 a. m. on the morning of the 11th, and proceeded directly to the north bank of the river. There, with the aid and assistance of Lieutenants Merriam and Brown, One hundred and forty-ninth New York Volunteers, we were quickly embarked in scows, dug-outs, and pontoon-boats, and, after much difficulty, succeeded in effecting a crossing. Immediately upon reaching the south bank I deployed a strong line of skirmishers, under command of Lieutenant Kelsey, and marched swiftly up the road to our first point of destination. In the mean time, however, I had captured two young men lounging near the river bank, and impressing one to act as a guide I forwarded the other to the north bank under guard, to be held as hostage for the good behavior of his brother. We reached the residence of Mr. Hugh Caperton, and, discovering said person in an adjacent field, I immediately arrested him. Following the lower mountain road, under the direction of our guide, I filed to the right, halting for a moment at the house of a Mr. Marshall, a citizen desirous of taking the oath, and, after some conversation, gaining information, I proceeded onward, arresting Mr. Adam Caperton, and discovering by search and inquiry that Mr. Thomas Caperton, one of the parties noticed for arrest, was a soldier in the rebel service, and had not been at home or seen in his immediate neighborhood for several months past. Retracing our steps, throwing out another line of skirmishers to our then front and holding our former first line as rear guard, I advanced to the left of Mr. Hugh Caperton's (as noted on appended diagram*) and advanced to the residence of Mr. John E. Caperton. This person I discovered to be absent from home, having gone to the top of the mountain. From searching inquiry I became convinced that this man has been endeavoring for more than a week to reach Stevenson for the purpose of taking the oath of allegiance. We then proceeded to the late residence of Mr. Sam. Norwood, finding, however, that he had long since vacated, removing to some inner county, his present place of residence. I arrested the man who at present occupies the premises first named, a person named John Loweree. The house noticed on the map as Norwood's house, near the coal bank, on the mountain top, has been utterly destroyed by fire. In each case I made thorough investigation, searching the premises for all articles contraband of war, but discovered nothing. Houses and outhouses, pens for animals, everything bearing the look of a depository for guns or Government property were diligently scrutinized, without effect.

* Not found.

Having accomplished the object of my mission, to the extent of my ability, and believing that further search would be as ineffectual and fruitless as previous search has proven, I returned to the ferry and north bank of the river, thence to Stevenson, where I delivered the persons of Messrs Hugh and Adam Caperton and Mr. John Loweree into your charge and keeping.

In the course of my investigations I became acquainted with the fact that a strong guerrilla rendezvous exists at Raccoon Creek, about 7 miles from Caperton's Ferry, under the leadership of a person named Cox. This man, with some 15 or 20 comrades, had dashed through the valley on Thursday or Friday last, committing serious depredations. This man is the same person who attacked the detachment of the Sixty-sixth Ohio a few weeks ago.

A rumor prevails in the valley that some 1,500 of Morgan's men are congregated in the mountains.

Numerous individuals in the valley and on the mountains are desirous of taking the oath of allegiance.

The arrested Caperton brothers are considered the wealthiest and most influential men in the valley. Both have nephews and sons in the rebel army; Mr. Loweree has two sons in the service of the rebels.

The roads are in execrable condition, miry and rocky.

I must render proper thanks to the officers and men assisting me, all from the Sixtieth New York, for alacrity and obedience to every command and the endeavor to do more than I required. I cannot too highly compliment them.

The expedition is under many obligations to Lieutenants Merriam and Brown, of the One hundred and forty-ninth New York, for their diligence and attention in ferrying the command over the river and return.

I am, captain, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

LEWIS R. STEGMAN,

*Major* 102*d N. Y. V. V., Comdg. Detch.* 60*th N. Y. V. V.*

Capt. S. B. WHEELOCK,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**APRIL 11, 1864.—Affair near Kelly's Plantation, Sulphur Springs Road, Ala.**

*Reports of Capt. William Jessup, Fifth Ohio Cavalry.*

SLEDGE'S PLANTATION, ALA.,
*April* 12, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the following report to make:

As my wagon, containing ten days' rations, a quantity of ammunition, and some clothing, camp and garrison equipage, was returning from Huntsville, Ala., it was attacked near Kelly's plantation, on the Sulphur Springs road, by a band of robbers, captured, and burned with all it contained. Three of the escort were also taken prisoners, and 6 mules and harness.

As soon as I learned of the affair I immediately went in pursuit, and was not half an hour behind them. They went west about 14 miles, and then bore to the north. At dark I was but ten minutes behind them. At this point roads led in every direction, and it was impossible for me to trail them farther.

I started this morning with all of the available force of this detachment, and will find their hiding place, if such a thing be possible. The men have no rations, and I send by bearer a provision return for same rations as before.

Colonel, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. JESSUP,

*Captain, Commanding Detachment.*

Col. C. R. WEVER, *Comdg. Post, Huntsville.*

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SLEDGE'S PLANTATION, ALA., *April* 13, 1864.

COLONEL: I have not been able to learn anything from the 3 men who were captured on the 11th instant. I found the trail of the robbers at Whitter's, on the Fayetteville road, 8 miles southeast of that place, at 10.30 a. m., April 12. I learned from a citizen that they had with them but 4 mules and 2 horses, and no prisoners. What has become of the 3 men and 2 mules I was unable to learn. I sent a detachment to the place where we left them the night of the 11th, but owing to the rain they were unable to find any trace of them. The citizens around there declared they had not seen a rebel since Wheeler passed.

I followed the trail that I found about 20 miles through the most barren and desolate country that could be imagined. The robbers used every precaution to prevent being followed, and in many instances I was compelled to dismount and follow a single track until they all joined again. Notwithstanding all the trouble we had to make out their trail we gained on them. When we first struck their trail they were three hours ahead of us, and when we were compelled to give up the pursuit they were not an hour ahead of us. From all appearances where we were bewildered there must be a large force in that vicinity. The ground was marked in all directions with innumerable tracks, quite fresh. It was impossible to tell from whence they came or where they went.

After spending the day in a fruitless search I returned to camp. I believe that a certain citizen named Benjamin Griffith knows more about the destruction of my wagon than he is disposed to tell. I sent a wagon to his house some time since for some bed clothing belonging to some negroes who had left him, and he was heard soon afterward to make the remark that he "would have that wagon captured and burned," and the deed has been performed. The nearest house is this same Griffith's. I have sent a detachment to-day to take the back trail from where I found it, and try and learn something of my men.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. JESSUP,

*Captain Fifth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.*

Col. C. R. WEVER, *Comdg. Post, Huntsville.*

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**APRIL 11–13, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Rossville to La Fayette, Ga.**

*Report of Col. Carter Van Vleck, Seventy-eighth Illinois Infantry.*

HDQRS. SEVENTY-EIGHTH ILLINOIS VOL. INFANTRY,

*Near Rossville, Ga., April* 13, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report my return with my command from the reconnaissance to La Fayette.

I left camp soon after daylight on the morning of the 11th instant, and marched the same day to within 1 mile of La Fayette. I heard nothing of the enemy, excepting 4 scouts, who came from the direction of La Fayette, and passing through Catlett's Gap came to a point near Crawfish Spring and returned. I reached La Fayette soon after sunrise on the morning of the 12th instant, and could hear of none of the enemy having been in that vicinity (excepting the 4 above mentioned) later than the 3d instant, when there were 137 cavalry from near Dalton at La Fayette, and this side to near Catlett's Gap. From all I could learn, I am satisfied that there is no considerable force this side of Taylor's Ridge, and the enemy seem to be concentrating all their forces at or near Dalton. From La Fayette I passed through Blue Bird Gap (which I found very much obstructed, so as to be entirely impassable for wagons or artillery), and encamped 1 mile this side of Thornton's, in Chattanooga Valley, having crossed Mission Ridge at a point opposite Blue Bird Gap. I returned to camp at 3 p. m. to-day. Citizens in Chattanooga Valley reported to me that there was a force of 16 rebel cavalry from the vicinity of Dalton at Bailey's and other points in the valley, on the 4th instant, but I think from what I could learn that they were our own scouts.

Most respectfully submitted.

CARTER VAN VLECK,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. T. W. MORRISON,
*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Second Division, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

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**APRIL 12, 1864.—Skirmish near Florence, Ala.**

*Report of Col. Samuel S. Ives, Thirty-fifth Alabama Infantry.*

HDQRS. THIRTY-FIFTH ALABAMA REGIMENT,
*Newburg, Ala., April* 15, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report my command still encamped at this place.

On the night of the 12th instant detachments of the Twenty-seventh Alabama and my regiment, commanded by Colonel Jackson and myself, crossed the Tennessee near Tuscumbia and surprised a camp of the enemy 4 miles distant from the river, killing 3, capturing 3 commissioned officers, 38 non-commissioned officers and privates, and 1 negro sutler, together with a considerable number of horses, mules, arms, equipments, &c., comprising the larger portion of Company G, Ninth Ohio Cavalry. I brought off my detachment entire, sustaining no loss whatever. One-half the prisoners I took charge of, and have this day forwarded them to Tuscaloosa with a guard of 1 captain and 14 men, to be turned over to the provost-marshal of that district. Twenty-eight horses and mules were captured by my command, which I have used for the purpose of sending the prisoners and guard forward, directing that on their arrival at Tuscaloosa a sufficient number be retained to insure the speedy return of the guard, and that the remainder be turned over. Whatever number may be retained for the purpose above stated I shall hold subject to order, and in the mean time use them for the purpose of sending out squads in search of deserters, &c., the character of a portion of this country rendering it physically impossible for infan-

try to traverse it. I incurred no risk whatever, being fully posted as to the position and numbers of the enemy. My intimate knowledge of that section would enable me to do the enemy great damage if I was fully authorized to act. I shall do nothing, however, to jeopardize my command without further orders.

Since the date of my last report 6 have joined by conscription and I have arrested 4 deserters belonging to my regiment and 4 belonging to other commands. I have but little confidence in a portion of those we are now conscripting unless they are retained in this section. In that event the probability is that they will make good soldiers.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

S. S. IVES,
*Colonel, Comdg. Thirty-fifth Alabama Regiment.*

Lieut. Col. THOMAS M. JACK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Demopolis, Ala.*

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**APRIL 12–16, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Bridgeport down the Tennessee River to vicinity of Triana, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. John W. Geary, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWELFTH ARMY CORPS,
*Bridgeport, Ala., April* 16, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the progress and results of an expedition down the Tennessee River, made in pursuance of orders of the major-general commanding, under date of April 10, instant:

Owing to the high state of water it was found impossible to pass the steam-boat Chickamauga, which reported from above on the 11th, by the main stream under the bridge at this point. The drawbridge on the opposite side of the island being imperfect and inoperative, she was not ready for the embarkation of the troops until noon of the 12th.

We steamed from Bridgeport at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 12th, having on board and in two scows alongside the Seventh and Sixty-sixth Ohio, detachments of the Twenty-eighth and One hundred and forty-seventh Pennsylvania, and one section of Knap's Pennsylvania battery, in all about 800 men, with an ample supply of ammunition and ten days' rations. I manned a 12-pounder howitzer and a small mountain howitzer upon the boat. These additional pieces proved very serviceable.

At an early hour I dispatched 14 of the First Alabama Cavalry, all that were available, along the south side of the river to Island Creek for information, and to destroy all boats in that stream, which they accomplished.

We passed down the river by Island and Widow's Creeks and Caperton's Ferry, Coon Island, and Coon and Mud Creeks, Bellefonte Islands, and Riley's Creek. I had dispatched detachments of infantry and the cavalry along the south side to advance by way of Cedar Bluff, Caperton's Ferry, and Crowton, to a point about 5 miles up Raccoon Creek, descending that stream and destroying all boats on it; thence to Riley's Creek, demolishing crafts secreted in the bushes. These orders were satisfactorily executed by 7.30 o'clock in the evening.

Riley's Creek was found to be a very rugged stream, difficult and of little importance.

My scouting forces reported men from Johnston's army up Raccoon Creek valley, scouting for information. Also, that Davenport's and Witherspoon's men were maneuvering through that section.

At 8.15 p. m. we arrived at Larkin's Landing, where we halted for the night. I here found the Fifty-fifth Illinois and two sections of artillery, and the post commanded by Lieut. Col. D. C. Coleman, Eighth Missouri, with whom I communicated, deriving from him information (based on reports of scouts and refugees) that the rebels had a continuous chain of pickets from Lebanon ranging on the south side of Town Creek to Guntersville, which village was now picketed by Captain Smith's force of about 100 men. Their next location in body was opposite Whitesburg. Lieutenant-Colonel Coleman had been informed several days previously that rebel cavalry had been seen moving from the neighborhood of Town Creek and Guntersville toward Decatur; also that two divisions of cavalry were at Gadsden, 20 miles southwest of Guntersville, and that Roddey and Wheeler were in command; Wheeler had been in Guntersville the week before.

Starting at 6.50 a m. on the 13th, having been prevented moving earlier by a heavy fog, we passed through the pontoon below Larkin's Ferry. In South Santa Creek we found but two boats, which were required by Colonel Coleman's command; at Roman's Ferry found one boat. Reached Seven-Mile Island at 7.40 a. m., and found a mail-route across the head of it. We broke up the line by sinking the boat used for it moored in the bushes. No other boats were found on the margin of the island, but we discovered one at Buck's Island, and also at Law's Ferry. From this point beyond we found a continuous chain of mountains on our left with arable land on the river banks, and heavy swamps and morasses between it and the foot of the mountain. Many farms were under cultivation, but the majority of the laborers fled from the fields toward the rebel pickets as we approached, and several fine cotton plantations were visible, one near Guntersville and one opposite Buck's Island. I notified those who remained of the restrictions upon boat-building.

We discovered a slough running from the river about a mile before reaching Town Creek, which debouched semicircularly to the mountain base and found outlet at Gunter's Landing. Farther beyond on the north side was another small inlet, leaving a narrow peninsula in the stream, and on the south side opposite was a succession of estuaries, bayous, and indentations which were encountered frequently beyond Guntersville, covered with heavy underbrush. The enemy could, with these morasses between them and troops landed upon the thickly wooded banks, possess every advantage of position; and in them boats could be secreted beyond the possibility of perception, without minute search.

We ran up Town Creek and examined it to near its junction with Black Oak Creek, and also some distance up Short Creek, finding 2 scows and a canoe. Proceeding thence to Guntersville, found the river picketed with cavalry, which extended from Lebanon along the south bank of Town Creek, crossing Short Creek to Guntersville, which we reached at 10 a. m. A body of rebel cavalry was drawn up on a hill to the south of the town. Having landed a detachment of infantry and thrown out skirmishers toward Guntersville and the mountains to its right, with orders to advance so as to

encircle the enemy's position to cover the movement, we steamed up the creek until opposite the town, which lay envaled between the mountains screened from river view.

The rebel pickets along the creek and adjacent to the river fell back rapidly to their reserve on the hill before the advance of my skirmish line. Simultaneous with this, I opened with artillery from the three decks of the boat upon the main force, which stood a short time, wavered, and dispersed, some seeking refuge in the town, to which I then directed my shots and dislodged them. Under cover of the artillery, the skirmish line rapidly approached the enemy's position, and were in possession of the town and the rebel position about a half hour after the operations against it were commenced.

We captured a mail and five boats, one of which was a large ferry-boat, which had been taken from Roman's Ferry, 6 miles below Larkin's Ferry, to Guntersville, to cross the party under Captain Smith, which captured our pickets at Claysville a short time since.

The enemy fled so rapidly on our approach that we took no prisoners, but several riderless horses indicated that our fire had not been without effect. The enemy had retired precipitately toward the Warrenton line, and all the pickets had left Town Creek immediately upon the attack upon Guntersville. The troops here and in the vicinity consisted principally of companies of Captains Smith, Buck May, Peter Whitecotton, Peter Dollard, and L. Mead—in all, about 250 to 300 men.

Having notified some of the inhabitants (the majority of them fled) of the restrictions placed upon them, we visited the next small creek, the mouth of a nameless stream running in from the direction of Helicon Postoffice, Shoal Creek, near the falls of the same, and found several boats; as also in the small streams between the latter and Cane Creek, the latter secreting two; also one each in the mouths of Dry and Blue Spruce Creeks. At 11.30 a. m. we passed Port Deposit and Paint Rock River at 12.15.

At Wild Goat Cove, discovered places for manufacturing saltpeter and in this vicinity the banks lined with refugees, some 40 or 50 appearing within a space of little more than a mile. The banks were so overflown with water that men could be landed only with great difficulty and delay, and in most places not at all. My men were kept constantly under arms from Town Creek to the farthest point reached, as a desultory firing was kept up along the shore, returned whenever opportunity presented, and with visible effect in some instances. Both going and returning we received occasional shots from bushwhackers on the north side. The least impregnable positions of the southern shore were protected with rifle-pits and earthworks, of which there were many, which we closely inspected from the boat. When passing Flint River, where the enemy had a post, they discharged several volleys at us from places so sheltered that they could not be seen. Some of their balls passed over the heads of the officers on the upper deck, and several entirely through the boat. Two men of the Seventh Ohio were wounded, 1 through the face and 1 in the head. Two of the rebels were picked off by my sharpshooters. We put in at Whitesburg at 2.30 p. m., opposite two rebel forts, which offered no molestation. I here found Lieutenant-Colonel Hall, Fifty-sixth Illinois, in command, the post being garrisoned by 285 infantry, 48 cavalry of the Fifth Ohio and Fourth Missouri, and a section of the Sixth Wisconsin Battery.

Colonel Hall informed me that a rebel brigade of cavalry under General Clanton, with a minor force of infantry, was stationed op-

posite, between Whitesburg and the mountains below, who were supposed to be building boats for early launching. A rebel brigade of cavalry lay encamped in a cove back of Lacy's Spring (the latter situation also rendered to me by a negro) and a still larger force was 5 miles back from the river. They showed themselves daily opposite Whitesburg in parties of from 15 to 30 behind the fork. No artillery had yet been seen by him. The rebels were extensively scouting and patroling the country from Decatur to Paint Rock. The Federal side was picketed about a mile each way from this post, and beyond that unguarded to near Decatur. His patrols had reported the enemy occupying both sides of the river at Triana in large force on the south side, as though intending to effect a crossing for an expedition at that point.

At 4.30 p. m. we left Whitesburg, and discovered, a short distance above Indian Creek, a column of infantry, about two strong regiments, moving rapidly in a small vale on the south side toward a high rocky bluff, well fortified by nature, presenting a precipitous wall to the river, evidently intending to dispute our passage. We halted the boat and opened a warm fire upon them from the four pieces for fifteen minutes, and shelled a party which was already on the bluffs, and then ran past. Getting a south view of the hills, we found some of them had concealed themselves in the plantation huts and houses, which we shelled, driving them out. We moved but a short distance and were near Triana, when we found on the north side a force fully equal to my own, in line of battle with skirmishers out, in a low, swampy, secreted place, densely wooded, and a force much larger on the hills on the south side, with a piece of artillery about being put in position upon them. We were near enough to distinguish all this with the naked eye. They presented an insuperable barrier to the passage of so frail a boat, whose decks threatened to give way even at the rebound of our own pieces, and with boiler and engine exposed. The men were necessarily huddled together, and there was no shelter for scarcely a single man. The enemy had either crossed, bent upon our annihilation, below the bluffs, where we had destroyed a very large boat, or at Triana, or at both places.

It was inevitable that immediately in front of us, in our condition, was the useless sacrifice not only of the boat, but necessarily of many lives, for a single cannon-shot would go through her, and fully satisfying myself of the situation and of the impossibility of passing the narrows near Triana with the concentration of forces upon us, and being informed at the point where we got the boat that a full battery was hourly expected at Triana, and believing that the reconnaissance as far as made, about 110 miles from Bridgeport and within 14 miles of Decatur, came within the spirit of my orders, I resolved to regain the position at Guntersville before morning and if possible before the artillery, expected from the vicinity of Gadsden to intercept us, could reach that point.

I therefore directed the course of the boat up stream, and we reached Whitesburg shortly after dark. On the route we shelled parties of cavalry on the south side. I here informed Lieutenant-Colonel Hall of the position of the enemy, and learned that a force of rebels had been on the north side a few days before, having crossed at the mouth of Cane Creek into Flint River, at which place we had destroyed all the boats. Scouts also reported to me that those that had been sunk in Paint Rock River were all that could be found in it.

Furnishing the command at Whitesburg with ammunition, we again got under way and carefully examined every stream along the north bank of Seven-Mile Island. We halted a short time opposite Guntersville, at 2 a. m. of the 14th, and then passed to Roman's Ferry, where I gleaned from citizens that 1,500 cavalry had passed southwestwardly from Lebanon on Saturday, in the direction of Gadsden. All their information tended toward a concentration westward of Gadsden.

At Larkin's Landing I was informed by Lieutenant-Colonel Coleman that after we had passed down the river, the day before (the 13th), three regiments of rebel cavalry passed from near Lebanon for the direction of Guntersville.

At Bellefonte was stationed the Nineteenth Indiana,* but no pickets were found along the river. A party I sent ashore in front of that place took several prisoners, one a member of Captain Smith's company of cavalry. He fled and was fired upon before taken. He stated that of our forces at Claysville, 2 men were killed, 1 wounded, and 37 taken prisoners. Of the rebels, 2 were killed and 5 wounded, 1 of whom was Captain Smith.

At various points along the north side of the river I communicated with the citizens, and instructed them as to what is required of them. In addition to the statements regarding the movements of the enemy tendered me, and rendered in this report, I gleaned from most reliable and intelligent sources, the parties having peculiar advantages for getting information, and who furnished it from personal knowledge, that 1,000 of Roddey's men arrived at Hendrixville, Ala., on Saturday evening last, were there joined by 1,000 more of the same on Sunday evening, and on Tuesday at daybreak the entire force started off on the Guntersville road. They stated they were to be followed by another brigade on Tuesday evening. Six pieces of artillery left Collinsville on Tuesday morning, going westward.

Following the cavalry, my informant learned from officers that this force had intended to attack the forces at Larkin's Landing, destroy the pontoon bridge, and then go to Decatur for aggressive operations. They received some news supposed by him to be adverse to their plans, held a consultation and relinquished the design, giving as a reason that the roughness of the roads would preclude its being carried successfully into effect. They then took the road to Warrenton, leaving Guntersville 4 miles to the right, and by way of the Somerville road to Pontague Valley, and then by a river road they moved to near Triana.

All the forces lately moving toward Gadsden have collected about the Blue Mountain in the vicinity of Jacksonville, Calhoun County, to feed their stock, there being large supplies of corn through that section, and visibly to protect the Montevallo Railroad from Selma to Jacksonville, which they think we design attempting to take. They are kept informed of our movements through bodies kept moving on the river route. These statements are corroborative of a movement of the enemy's forces by way of Warrenton and toward Somerville, which had been going on for some days previously. This preparation to oppose us also revealed their point of concentration.

Upon the return trip the repeated appearance of hostile groups necessitated the men being under arms as upon the outward journey. We reached this station at 2 o'clock this morning.

*A mistake. The Nineteenth was in the Army of the Potomac. It was probably the One hundredth Indiana.

Upon the expedition we destroyed forty-seven boats. Our casualties are: Private James B. Auxer, Company F, Seventh Ohio Volunteers, gunshot wound through face; Private William H. Poor, Company F, Seventh Ohio Volunteers, gunshot wound in head; Private Martin T. Britton, Company D, Seventh Ohio Volunteers, gunshot wound in right hand. We took prisoners with arms: J. H. Cunningham, Smith's Alabama Cavalry, L. M. Swan, G. J. Bain, J. M. Gullitte.

With the mail I forward you by messenger seventeen $1,000 Tennessee and Coosa Railroad bonds, taken at Guntersville.

Capt. John Newton, of the Chickamauga, is deserving of official mention for the zeal and interest he manifested in his connection with the expedition.

Hoping the reconnaissance may meet with the approbation of the major-general commanding, I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. W. GEARY,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. W. D. WHIPPLE, *A. A. G.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
*Chattanooga, April* 17, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded to the assistant adjutant-general, headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi, for the information of Major-General Sherman, with expressions of satisfaction at the manner in which Brig. Gen. John W. Geary conducted his expedition and the results which followed. From the information furnished by General Geary, and that derived from other sources, there seems to be foundation for the rumor that the enemy intend attacking our railroad communications from a southwesterly direction.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
*Major-General, U. S. Volunteers, Commanding.*

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**APRIL 13, 1864.—Skirmish at Mink Springs, near Cleveland, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding brigade.
No. 2.—Capt. James M. Comstock, First Wisconsin Cavalry.

No. 1.

*Reports of Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding brigade.*

CLEVELAND, TENN., *April* 13, 1864.

I have the honor to report that this morning at daylight the enemy, about 800 strong, surrounded and attacked our outpost at Mink Springs at crossing of Ducktown and Federal roads, capturing —, two of whom were wounded. Captain Smith, topographical engineer of General Johnson's staff, was captured with his papers. No blame attached to the conduct of men. I have sent an adequate force in pursuit, and hope to overtake the enemy.

EDWARD M. McCOOK,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. J. E. JACOBS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

CLEVELAND, TENN.,
*April* 13, 1864.

There was an omission in dispatch sent this morning. One commissioned officer and 18 men were captured, 2 of whom were wounded.

EDWARD M. McCOOK.

Capt. J. E. JACOBS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Capt. James M. Comstock, First Wisconsin Cavalry.*

CAMP FIRST WISCONSIN CAVALRY,
*Cleveland, East Tenn., April* 15, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I was stationed on outpost duty on the Cleveland and Ducktown road, 6 miles from Cleveland, on the morning of the 12th of April, 1864, with 2 commissioned officers and 100 men. I sent Lieutenant Caldwell, in command of 25 men, all of the First Wisconsin Cavalry, to relieve an outpost picket 4 miles beyond on the same road.

On the morning of the 13th instant, at daybreak, I was informed through the citizens that a large body of the enemy's cavalry, probably 1,500 strong, was advancing in the direction of the outpost, 4 miles beyond me. I immediately dispatched a party in the direction of the picket, and ascertained that they had been attacked at daylight on all sides by largely superior numbers; that after resisting a short time, in which 1 rebel was reported killed and 1 wounded, the lieutenant and 19 men, with arms, horses, and equipments, were captured; 2 of the latter were wounded. Six men escaped, losing all of their horses and equipments and a portion of their arms.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. COMSTOCK,
*Captain First Wisconsin Cavalry, Commanding Outpost.*

Capt. ROBERT LE ROY,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, First Cav. Div.*

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**APRIL 13, 1864.—Skirmishes near Decatur, Ala.**

*Report of Maj. John H. Kuhn, Ninth Illinois Infantry (mounted).*

HEADQUARTERS NINTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
*Decatur, Ala., April* 14, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that I have had scouting parties out on the different roads leading from this place for the past few days, who report no heavy force of the enemy, but squads or companies on all the roads, forming an almost unbroken chain of pickets, an average distance of about 6 miles from this city.

Last night I ordered a small party, under Lieutenant Oates, to make a second effort to pass to the rear of the enemy, on the Moulton and Decatur and Moulton and Courtland roads, in order to effect a passage. I ordered two companies under Captain Hughes to drive in the enemy's pickets and pursue them as far as prudent and then fall back, Lieutenant Oates being instructed at the same time to pass over the mountains toward Mount Hope. Captain Hughes came in

about 11 p. m., and reported that he was strenuously opposed by a party of rebel scouts and pickets, which he drove back of the cross-roads about 10 miles in the mountains. Lieutenant Oates returned in the latter part of the night, reporting that the enemy held all the roads and mountain passes by which they can be penetrated. He met with no large force, but sentinels and squads, sufficiently strong and evidently posted to give alarm and capture deserters, making their way to our lines. Lieutenant Oates left the mountains and crossed over to the Courtland road, about 8 miles below this place. He had severe skirmishing with four different parties of these scouts and pickets, losing 1 horse killed from under one of his men.

I have now four companies out scouting and on guard duty. Four companies will be sent to make the attempt to go to Triana, and two will go out on the roads leading south and west of town as soon as those now out return.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN H. KUHN,
*Major Ninth Illinois Infantry, Commanding.*

Capt. F. F. WHITEHEAD, *A. A. G.*

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**APRIL 15, 1864.—Skirmish near Greeneville, Tenn.**

*Report of Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio.*

KNOXVILLE, TENN., *April* 16, 1864.

The Third Indiana Cavalry, reconnoitering beyond Greeneville yesterday, surprised a party of rebel cavalry, killed 10 and captured 15, including their leader, Reynolds. Nothing new relative to the movements of the enemy.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
*Major-General.*

Major-General SHERMAN, *Nashville, Tenn.*

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**APRIL 17, 1864.—Affair at Flint River, Ala.**

*Report of Maj. John H. Kuhn, Ninth Illinois Infantry (mounted).*

HDQRS. NINTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
*Decatur, Ala., April* 17, 1864.

SIR: I respectfully report that I sent a scouting party of a sergeant and 10 privates out on the Somerville road at 7.30 a. m. to-day. The party found about 150 of the enemy this side of Flint River, divided into two parties. The advance party of the enemy, numbering about 100, permitted my scouting party to pass by them unmolested some distance, and then closed in on them, cutting off their retreat. Two of my men are known to have been captured; the rest of them took to the woods, only 1 of whom has yet come in. The rebels were within 1 mile of the mill on Flint River.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

JOHN H. KUHN,
*Major Ninth Illinois Infantry, Commanding.*

Capt. F. W. Fox, *A. A. G.*

**APRIL 18, 1864.—Skirmish near Decatur, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. FOURTH DIVISION, SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
*Decatur, Ala., April* 18, 1864.

Major Fairfield, First Alabama, came onto the rebel picket on the Courtland road this morning, about 2 miles out. He drove them in, and pushed them until they showed a force too strong for him.

I sent Major Kuhn with 240 men to support him. This force drove them back to the main body, about 5 miles from here. They showed no inclination to engage until they reached the main force. Citizens reported that Roddey was there in person, having arrived yesterday. All quiet on all the roads. A force of about 200 appeared on the Somerville road this morning.

JAMES C. VEATCH,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brigadier-General DODGE,
*Comdg. Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps, Athens.*

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**APRIL 18-20, 1864.—Expedition from Burkesville, Ky., to Obey's River, Tenn.**

*Report of Col. James W. Weatherford, Thirteenth Kentucky Cavalry.*

BURKESVILLE, *April* 20, 1864.

Captain Watson just returned; captured 8 prisoners; had fight at Obey's River; Hughs scattered his men; killed and wounded some of them; have one that murdered one of my men (Niel Creelsboro) in October last.

J. W. WEATHERFORD,
*Colonel Thirteenth Kentucky Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. E. H. HOBSON.

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**APRIL 19, 1864.—Operations against Unionists in Marion County, Ala.**

*Report of Col. Dud. W. Jones, Ninth Texas Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT TEXAS BRIGADE,
*Tuscaloosa, Ala., April* 27, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report to Brigadier-General Armstrong, commanding division, that in obedience to orders from General Jackson I left Tuscaloosa on the morning of the 19th instant in command of detachments from the Sixth and Ninth Texas Cavalry Regiments (commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Ross and Major Bates, respectively), and Captain Lee's squadron, from the Third Texas Cavalry, amounting in all to about 300 men. I proceeded according to instructions to operate against the tories, who were reported to be in open resistance in Marion County, Ala. On the route a small party of my men were fired into by a party of men dressed in Federal uniform. The tories immediately fled and were hotly pursued, but getting into the hills they made their escape. I learned on my return that one of these men was a captain in the Federal army, and down there on recruiting service. The others

were tories belonging to the Yankee army and at home on furlough. When I reached Marion County I found that the reports in regard to the tories had been greatly exaggerated, and that there were none of them in open resistance. There are a great many deserters there in the woods and a good many of them are armed, and I learned that secret organizations existed among them, but saw no evidence of an open resistance.

In regard to the case of Captain Woodward, which I was ordered to investigate, I found the captain with an order to recruit and organize a battalion, given him by Colonel Patterson, commanding a brigade in General Roddey's command, and a letter of instructions from the same, which I herewith transmit. Deeming his authority insufficient, I brought Captain Woodward and all of the men that he had with him in with me. Finding that I could not longer remain in Marion County, owing to the great scarcity of forage, after remaining two days I determined to report with my command at Tuscaloosa.

I captured a good many conscripts and deserters, and succeeded in reaching this place with about 50 men whom I found absent from their commands without proper authority.

Respectfully submitted.

DUD. W. JONES,
*Colonel Ninth Texas Cavalry,*
*Comdg. Detachment Texas Brig., Jackson's Cav. Div.*

Capt. THOMAS B. SYKES,
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Jackson's Division.*

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**APRIL 19-20, 1864.—Skirmishes at Waterhouse's Mill and Boiling Springs, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland.

No. 2.—Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry. commanding Second Brigade.

No. 1.

*Report of Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Cleveland, Tenn., April* 20, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that Lieutenant Hill, of my staff, with 15 men, attacked and routed 27 of the First Tennessee (rebel) Cavalry near Waterhouse's, wounding 2 and taking 1 prisoner. Last evening about 8 o'clock a small party of our scouts had a skirmish with about 20 of the enemy at Boiling Springs, about 5 miles above Spring Place, on Charleston and Spring Place road. They drove the rebels back and killed 2 of their horses. My pickets report all quiet in their front.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
EDWARD M. McCOOK,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. W. D. WHIPPLE.

No. 2.

*Report of Col. Oscar H. La Grange, First Wisconsin Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade.*

CLEVELAND, TENN., *April 22*, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I respectfully report that the scouting party detailed from Second Brigade on 21st proceeded to Waterhouse's Mill, where it remained until 1 o'clock this morning, when it was equally divided, one party under Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart proceeding directly down the Spring Place road, and the other crossing into the old Federal road and describing an arc, intersecting the Cleveland and Spring Place road at a point 29 miles from Cleveland, equidistant from Boiling Springs and Spring Place, and behind the camp of a scouting party of 32 rebels. A mistake in regard to the distance to be traveled by the second party prevented the junction agreed upon, and Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, attacking directly in front at daylight, notwithstanding the disadvantageous circumstances, captured a captain, a lieutenant, and 12 men without loss. The peculiarly favorable position of the enemy renders this trifling success creditable to himself and his men. Had the other party arrived in time to attack simultaneously from the rear not one of the party could have escaped. From information gleaned by the way it is believed that the enemy's cavalry force (at present inconsiderable, but soon to be augmented) is now at Tunnel Hill.

The scout, Leonard, appears to have extensive and reliable means of ascertaining the enemy's movements. The scouting party returned in good condition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. ROBERT LE ROY, *A. A. G.*

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**APRIL 19-23, 1864.—Expedition up the Yazoo River, Miss., skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gun-boat Petrel.**

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Itinerary of the District of Vicksburg, for April, 1864.
No. 2.—Itinerary of the Second Brigade, First Division, U. S. Colored Troops, Seventeenth Army Corps, for April, 1864.
No. 3.—Col. Embury D. Osband, Third U. S. Colored Cavalry, of skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg.
No. 4.—Brig. Gen. Wirt Adams, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

*Itinerary of the District of Vicksburg, for April*, 1864.†

An expedition in command of Col. H. Scofield, commanding Second Brigade, First Division, U. S. Colored Troops, was sent from Haynes' Bluff up the Yazoo River, meeting the enemy in force; did

* For reports of Acting Master Thomas McElroy, U. S. Navy, &c., see Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, dated December 5, 1864.
† From monthly return.

not give him battle; returned to Haynes' Bluff April 23. Gun-boat No. 5 (Petrel) and gun-boat No. 11 (Prairie Bird), Lieutenant-Commander McElroy commanding fleet, accompanied the expedition. In attempting to run the blockade at Yazoo City, in order to open fire on the works from above, the Petrel was lost, and her crew, including Lieutenant-Commander McElroy, were either killed or taken prisoners.

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No. 2.

*Itinerary of the Second Brigade, First Division, U. S. Colored Troops, Seventeenth Army Corps, for April, 1864.**

April 19, two regiments of the brigade moved at 6.30 a. m. for Yazoo City; marched 22 miles without seeing the enemy, with the exception of a few scouts; went into camp at 7 p. m.

April 20, broke camp at daylight and moved toward Benton, Miss. At Mechanicsburg the brigade drove in the enemy's pickets of about 20 cavalry, and moved on without much resistance until about 6 miles from the latter place, when the enemy was met in force, who opened on the advance with four pieces of artillery. Engaged the enemy, and having silenced their battery moved to Liverpool Heights, on the Yazoo River, about 15 miles below the city. Arrived at 9 p. m. and encamped for the night, and remained awaiting orders until the night of the 22d, when the brigade embarked on transports and returned to its former camp at Snyder's Bluff, Miss.

April 29, the brigade again broke camp and moved to Vicksburg, Miss.

April 30, arrived at Vicksburg at 9 a. m.

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No. 3.

*Report of Col. Embury D. Osband, Third U. S. Colored Cavalry, of skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRD U. S. COLORED CAVALRY,
*Haynes' Bluff, Miss., April 25,* 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to respectfully report that, pursuant to orders, I moved at 6 a. m. on the morning of the 19th of April with one battalion Tenth Missouri Cavalry, 90 men and 4 officers, Maj. W. H. Lusk commanding, and the Second Battalion, Third U. S. Colored Cavalry, 138 men and 12 officers, Maj. J. B. Cook commanding, on the Yazoo City road. Dividing my command to cover both ridge and valley road, I proceeded to within 7 miles of Mechanicsburg; returning to the column encamped at the residence of Mr. Willday, on the valley road.

Moving at daylight on the 20th, and accompanied by the First Kansas Mounted Infantry as far as Mechanicsburg, we moved toward Yazoo City, driving in our front about 50 of the enemy's skirmishers. The advance guard of the Tenth Missouri Cavalry, under Captain Cain, was exceedingly fine and worthy of special mention. About 9 miles beyond Mechanicsburg we captured 2 out of the 4 men posted as a picket, and learned that Mabry's brigade, formerly either Adams' or Starke's, was somewhere in our front

* From monthly return.

with four pieces of artillery and about 700 men. Halting in a little belt of timber for the infantry to close up we saw about 20 men in our front and dismounted two companies to flank them, when instantly the enemy appeared on our position with an ambushed battery of four pieces, distant about three-quarters of a mile, continuing a rapid fire for nearly an hour, during which time our dismounted companies rejoined the command. Having received an order from Colonel Scofield, commanding, I fell back as directed to a point near to, and so as to defend the passage of, the cross-road leading to Liverpool Heights. While holding this position the enemy, who had followed us, attempted to force our position held by the Third U. S. Colored Cavalry, Maj. J. B. Cook commanding. Major Cook arranged an ambuscade for them behind a small ridge jutting out to the road. They advanced about one regiment strong in column, but on receiving the unexpected fire from the ridge they were thrown into confusion, and on being pushed by the charging party, a lieutenant and 12 men, all the well-mounted men there were in the Third U. S. Colored Cavalry, broke into fragments and were pursued fully 1 mile in the wildest confusion to the enemy's rear line of battle, who, mistaking them in the cloud of dust for our column, poured into them a volley of musketry.

Their loss must have been severe, 5 dead and many wounded men and horses being left upon the field.

Holding our position undisturbed till 7 p. m., we moved by order in the rear of the infantry to Liverpool Heights.

Leaving there at 12.30 a. m. on the morning of April 23, we marched to Haynes' Bluff, undisturbed by the enemy.

I desire to particularly mention the conduct of Maj. William H. Lusk, Tenth Missouri Cavalry; Maj. J. B. Cook, Third U. S. Colored Cavalry; Second Lieut. Edwin Farley, C Company, Third U. S. Colored Cavalry, who led the charge.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. OSBAND,
*Colonel, Commanding Third U. S. Colored Cavalry.*

Capt. W. H. F. RANDALL,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 4.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Wirt Adams, C. S. Army.*

DEMOPOLIS, *April* 23, 1864.

Brig. Gen. Wirt Adams, commanding cavalry on the Yazoo River, telegraphs me from Yazoo City on 22d instant to this effect:

I have the honor to report the capture of a gun-boat to-day near this city. While lying near the shore she was attacked by a section of artillery and a detachment of sharpshooters under Colonel Griffith, who drove the men from the guns, and finally the crew from the boat. I removed her fine armament of eight 24-pounder guns and the most valuable stores, and had her burned to the water's edge. The captain and pilot are prisoners in my hands, and a number of the crew. My casualties are small.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond.*

YAZOO CITY, *April* 21, 1864. (Via Canton, 22d.)

Enemy, 1,500 strong (cavalry, infantry, and one battery), was met near Liverpool last evening. After heavy skirmishing for several hours he retired and remained inactive. To-day not yet clearly developed whether the expedition is against Yazoo City or railroad; unless he is re-enforced we can protect either.

Fleet of gun-boats and transports approaching Yazoo City late this evening was driven back by battery.

WIRT ADAMS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieut. Col. T. M. JACK.

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YAZOO CITY, *April* 23, 1864.
(Received Demopolis, 25th.)

Enemy, foiled in his purposes, embarked his forces during night 22d, and returned yesterday morning to Vicksburg. Have telegraphed General Chalmers shall not require assistance.

WIRT ADAMS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Lieut. Col. T. M. JACK.

*ADDENDA.*

DEMOPOLIS, *April* 24, 1864.

Brigadier-General ADAMS, *Yazoo City, via Canton:*

Your dispatch giving account of Colonel Griffith's gallant achievement in the capture of gun-boat received. Will you be able to remove and secure the guns? Report the present situation of affairs. General Chalmers, with a brigade from Panola and one from Okolona, with a battery from Aberdeen, has been ordered to join you. Hope you will be enabled to cut off enemy's retreat to Vicksburg. Keep in communication with Chalmers. Keep me advised every six hours.

L. POLK,
*Lieutenant-General.*

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## APRIL 21, 1864.—Affair at Harrison's Gap, Ala.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Peter J. Osterhaus, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Maj. John Lubbers, Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry.

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Peter J. Osterhaus, U. S. Army, commanding First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION,
*Woodville, Ala., April* 22, 1864.

COLONEL: General Logan being temporarily absent from Huntsville, I submit the following report to you for the information of the major-general commanding the department:

On receipt of Major Lubbers' dispatch from Vienna (copy inclosed*), the import of which I telegraphed to you this morning, I

*Not found.

sent a staff officer to Vienna, who reports the following: The rebel party was about 40 strong, commanded by Johnston (formerly a Methodist preacher); they seemed to have rendezvoused at Hollowell's and crossed the river at Johnston's Landing. Thirty of the party lay in ambush and attacked the returning patrol at Harrison's Gap, as reported by Major Lubbers. The other 10 attempted to take away some boats from this side, but finding them guarded they fled at the first shot.

As soon as Major Lubbers, commanding at Vienna, was informed of the circumstances he used every effort to recapture the men, but without success. The rebels shouted across the river and offered to give up the wounded in exchange for Daniels, Anderson, and Smith, all of Mead's battalion. The first named, Daniels, was a lieutenant in Mead's battalion, and was captured by my forces and released by direction of Major-General Logan on taking oath and giving bond. Anderson is in confinement here, and was brought before a military commission; finding not published. Smith was captured by General M. L. Smith's forces; was some time in confinement at Larkinsville; was removed to Huntsville, and lately tried before a military commission; finding not published. He is at present, I believe, in the hands of the provost-marshal at Huntsville.

The ambush was made, and the party captured within 50 yards of Harrison's house. When the rebels moved off this man went to a neighbor, about 4 miles off of road, alleging that he was afraid to travel alone, and these two proceeded leisurely to Vienna to give the commanding officer notice of the outrage, arriving there a considerable time after. One of the pickets stationed at the river, who, seeing the enemy pass near him (while patroling) with the prisoners, walked 3 miles and then borrowed a horse, bringing the first information to Major Lubbers. The major is of opinion that this delay was made purposely by Harrison to enable the rebels to get away and across the river before pursuit could be made, and that Harrison only gave information owing to his fears that he would be molested unless he did so. He represents Harrison as a Southern sympathizer, and recommends that he and similar families be put across the river, as he has not sufficient proof to convict him of violation of the laws of war before a commission.

Appearances on the other side of the Tennessee indicate that all the pickets below the mouth of Flint have been withdrawn, while those at Hollowell's, opposite mouth of Paint Rock, have been reenforced.

Awaiting your reply, I am, colonel, your obedient servant,

P. JOS. OSTERHAUS,
*Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Commanding.*

Col. W. T. CLARK,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Maj. John Lubbers, Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-SIXTH IOWA VOLUNTEERS,
*Fort Osterhaus, Vienna, Ala., April 21, 1864.*

SIR: I regret to report that this morning about 8.30 a. m. a detail of 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 6 men, who were returning from duty

as patrols on Tennessee, were captured by a force of the enemy at Harrison's Gap. The men were marching leisurely, and the enemy having concealed themselves fired into the leading 4, mortally wounding 1 and another seriously. They numbered about 30 men. This detail was the only one on the river at the time, the remaining ones having been ordered to camp early in the day.

I mounted men immediately and started in pursuit, but information did not reach me till too late, and I was only able to see the prisoners on the other side.

Efforts were made to get the wounded back, but without avail. The enemy did not cross on my front, but evidently had the aid and counsel of citizens.

I would respectfully suggest that, with the general's permission, I can cross the Tennessee and retaliate by capturing and destroying whatever there may be on the other side. All my officers and men are anxious to have a trial with the guerrillas.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN LUBBERS,
*Major, Commanding Twenty-sixth Iowa.*

P. S.—Inclosed I send a communication which was left on this bank of the river where the enemy crossed with the prisoners.

JOHN LUBBERS,
*Major, Commanding.*

Capt. W. A. GORDON, *A. A. G.*

[Inclosure.]

MADISON COUNTY, ALA., *April* 22, 1864.

*To the Officer Commanding Post at Vienna, Ala.:*

SIR: If any citizen or any house is injured or destroyed for what we have done over here, we will retaliate by putting these prisoners to death. We have 8, but will treat them as prisoners of war. We are not bushwhackers, and you must not hold citizens responsible for what we do.

OFFICER COMMANDING SQUADRON.

(This paper was recognized as in Parson Johnston's handwriting.)

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**APRIL 23, 1864.—Attack on Union pickets at Nickajack Trace, Ga.**

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Col. Eli H. Murray, Third Kentucky Cavalry, commanding Third Cavalry Division.
No. 3.—Lieut. Col. Benjamin F. Sheets, Ninety-second Illinois Infantry (mounted).

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird, U. S. Army.*

RINGGOLD, *April* 23, 1864.

Colonel Murray reports that his picket was not surprised but overpowered. Fifteen of our men were shot, mostly after they had surrendered and been robbed. Eight are already dead, but 1 will live. Rebels took 13 prisoners, 1 (the lieutenant) wounded. All is quiet

*See also General Thomas' report, p. 19.

since, and the post strengthened by 100 men. I send a written report through General Palmer. A dismounted regiment barricaded itself on the road in rear of post and a battalion of cavalry charged in front and drove it back onto the footmen. Such distant posts are always much exposed. Rebel loss not known.

A. BAIRD,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General THOMAS.

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No. 2.

*Reports of Col. Eli H. Murray, Third Kentucky Cavalry, commanding Third Cavalry Division.*

RINGGOLD, GA., *April* 23, 1864.

I have deferred until this moment, in order to receive the facts, telegraphing the account of an attack on our picket-line near Nickajack this morning at daylight. A regiment of dismounted rebel cavalry sneaked over Taylor's Ridge, getting in rear of our picket-post at Leet's farm. A charge of three companies of rebel cavalry attacked our advance vedettes, drove them to the reserve of the post at Nickajack, which reserve was ready to receive them, which it did, fighting the three companies and following back until they were attacked in rear by the dismounted men, who had come over the ridge. They then made a stand against both parties. Between the two parties our men suffered severely, losing 5 killed and 10 wounded, and Lieutenant Scovill and 12 men taken prisoners. The men were all of the Ninety-second Illinois Mounted Infantry. The rebels lost 1 killed, 1 wounded, and 1 taken prisoner. Attacked as they were, our men did all they could. They were found vigilant and active. Will write fully.

E. H. MURRAY,
*Colonel, Commanding Third Division Cavalry.*

Capt. J. E. JACOBS, *A. A. G.*

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RINGGOLD, GA., *April* 23, 1864.

It appears there were two regiments of footmen and one battalion of cavalry that made the attack this morning. All the wounded except 1 will die, probably to-night. Some of our men were killed after they surrendered. Will send official list and report in the morning.

E. H. MURRAY,
*Colonel, Commanding Third Cavalry Division.*

Capt. J. E. JACOBS, *A. A. G.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Benjamin F. Sheets, Ninety-second Illinois Infantry (mounted).*

HDQRS. NINETY-SECOND ILL. VOL. INF. (MOUNTED),
*Ringgold, Ga., April* 23, 1864.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report that the men of my regiment doing picket duty at and near the Lyle farm, 8 miles south from this place, were attacked at dawn this morning by a large force of the enemy, consisting of infantry and cavalry.

The detail from my regiment consisted of 64 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. Horace C. Scovill, Company K, of this regiment. These men were distributed at seven different posts, leaving at the reserve near the Lyle house 18 men. From the best information I suppose one regiment of rebel infantry crossed Taylor's Ridge, about 5 miles from Ringgold, and formed a line reaching from the base of the ridge to the Alabama road, facing south, and between the pickets of the Third Kentucky Cavalry and those of my regiment. Another regiment crossed the ridge in line, facing west. Two companies of cavalry came up the valley from the south, and one company of cavalry from the direction of the Leet farm.

The attack was simultaneous on all the posts. After desperate resistance and finding themselves so greatly outnumbered, my men attempted to fall back toward camp, but soon found their retreat cut off by the regiment formed perpendicular to the ridge and the roads barricaded. It was impossible for the different posts to unite with the reserve, which had been reduced to 9 men in re-enforcing the outposts. Nothing was left for my men to do but tamely surrender or individually fight their way out; they chose to try the latter. Of the 64, 34 escaped death or capture and re-occupied the ground from which they had been driven, remaining there until relieved. Not a man came to camp except on orders, until the remnant of the guard came in.

Five were killed, 4 mortally wounded, 3 severely wounded, and 20 are missing. Lieutenant Scovill is wounded and a prisoner. Nothing definite has been learned as to the enemy's loss, but from all the information in my possession I am led to believe their loss in killed and wounded fully equal if not greater than our own. We captured 1 prisoner.

I have investigated the affair carefully, and am fully satisfied that there was no neglect or want of caution exhibited, and that all did their duty nobly and well. If there is any fault in the matter it is in the position itself, removing a small body of men so many miles from support and under the base of a ridge that can be crossed by foot soldiers at any point.

I beg respectfully to call especial attention to the barbarous treatment of the men captured by the enemy, as set forth in statements hereto annexed. If, because brave soldiers will not surrender without fighting, they are to be murdered, then assuredly the rules of warfare need to be modified.

I beg leave to call attention also to the soldierly conduct of Sergeants Strock, Company C, and Hine, Company E, who saved the most of their men and re-occupied the field.

The men speak in high terms of the conduct of Lieutenant Scovill.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. F. SHEETS,
*Lieut. Col. Comdg. Ninety-second Illinois Volunteers.*

Lieut. J. S. MCREA,
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[First indorsement.]

RINGGOLD, GA., *April* 24, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded.

I beg to call especial attention to the brutal murder of our men while in the enemy's hands and disarmed. The evidence is con-

clusive (the best possible)—the statements of men, fatally wounded, just before their death. There is no room for doubt in the premises, and a terrible retribution should follow this damnable outrage upon brave men.

SMITH D. ATKINS,
*Col. Ninety-second Ill. Vols., Comdg. 3d Brig., 3d Cav. Div.*

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Ringgold, Ga., April 24, 1864.*

Respectfully forwarded.

The conduct of this detachment was indeed praiseworthy. Necessarily an exposed position, with the enemy in front and rear, they fought until entirely overpowered. The unauthorized and outrageous murder of our men after they had surrendered themselves, as the inclosed statements and affidavits will show, I would also call especial attention to, that proper punishment may be visited upon those who would cast aside civilized warfare.

E. H. MURRAY,
*Colonel Third Kentucky Cavalry, Comdg. Division.*

[Inclosures.]

EXHIBIT A.

RINGGOLD, GA.,
*April 23, 1864.*

[Lieut. I. C. LAWVER,
*Adjutant:*]

ADJUTANT: I have the honor to report that my picket-post, consisting of 10 men and corporal, was attacked at 4 o'clock on the 23d of April on Taylor's Ridge, 7 miles south of Ringgold, known as Nickajack trail.

The enemy charged on us with superior numbers and forced us to fall back, after resisting them a short time. We then retreated to our horses at the foot of the ridge, and finding we were nearly surrounded we retreated along the foot of the ridge, and with much difficulty escaped.

My loss was:*

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT J. HINE,
*Sergeant Company E, Ninety-second Illinois.*

EXHIBIT B.

IN CAMP AT RINGGOLD, GA.,
*April 23, 1864.*

Lieut. I. C. LAWVER,
*Adjutant:*

ADJUTANT: In obedience to orders I have the honor to report that at picket-post No. 3, on the morning of the 21st, I relieved Sergeant Pettit and his men. The following instructions I received from him: Keep 6 men and 1 non-commissioned officer on duty on the ridge, during the daytime; in the evening, after dark, have the men from

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 2 killed, 1 wounded, and 1 missing.

the ridge to fall back to the reserve; during the night have 3 men out as vedettes to protect the reserve post. Keep all the horses saddled; take one-half the bridles off at a time to feed.

Everything was quiet until this morning. About half an hour before daylight I heard the report of a gun on one of the lower posts. Immediately after the shot was fired I got my men under arms; in a few moments we heard a volley in the same direction. I then took all my men (but 3, which I left with the horses) and formed a skirmish line in my front and right. I held the line for some time; then I noticed a rebel cavalry movement in the main road. They were advancing and skirmishing with our men all the time. They soon gained the ground between my post and the road. At the same time I noticed infantry advancing down over the ridge; then I ordered my men to fall back to their horses and mount. I then led a hasty retreat along the foot of the ridge, skirmishing with their cavalry for three-fourths of a mile back, and while going back Henry Miller, of Company F, was thrown from his horse and captured. There was also Frank M. Chase, of Company C, and Alexander Baysinger, of Company G, and Abraham Houser, of Company G; their horses fell and they were captured. George E. Marl, of Company F, was wounded. While falling back my men captured a rebel cavalryman. I then fell back to the cavalry pickets, and remained there until the lieutenant had drawn up his first post; then we advanced to the field again, found nothing but dead and wounded on the field, and remained until relieved.

Yours, with respect,

JOHN L. STROCK,
*Sergt. Company C, Ninety-second Illinois Mounted Infantry.*

EXHIBIT C.

HDQRS. THIRD BRIGADE, THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Ringgold, Ga., April* 23, 1864.

Lieut. I. C. LAWVER,
*Adjutant Ninety-second Illinois Volunteers:*

ADJUTANT: Having been among the first to visit the scene of the affair at Nickajack Trace, which took place this morning, I respectfully submit the following statements of the wounded, and also those of certain citizens living in the vicinity, in regard to the treatment of our men, after having been captured by the enemy:

One citizen informed me that he saw a rebel officer shoot one of our men after he had surrendered and been marched some distance, but was unable to keep up with the others. This seemed to be the only excuse for the act; at the same time he heard one of the rebels say, "That's right, cap., give it to him again."

William Castanach, private Company B, mortally wounded, states that after having surrendered he was marched, with several others, on "double-quick" until he was unable to go farther, when a rebel lieutenant shot him, inflicting only a slight wound, after which he shot him a second time and left him, evidently supposing him to be killed. Soon after two rebels came to him, and after taking his pocket-book and boots, one of them said, "Let's scalp the Goddamned Yankee," but passed on without further molestation.

Reginald J. A. O'Conner, private Company B, mortally wounded, also states that he was shot after having surrendered, because unable to keep pace with the cavalry.

George A. Springer, private Company E; John Craddock, private Company E; George E. Marl, private Company F, and William H. Reynolds, private Company I, all made the same or similar statements in regard to themselves.

Private William A. Hills, Company K, was found dead, about 1 mile from the post where he had been standing picket during the night. A lady living near by stated that she saw him pursued and overtaken by rebel cavalry near her house; that he immediately gave his gun to one of them, who thereupon shot him, killing him instantly.

I noticed in two cases that the clothing had taken fire from the discharge of the guns, thereby showing that they must have been within a very few feet of the persons who shot them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CLINTON HELM,

*Surg. 92d Ill. Vols., and Acting Surg. 3d Brig., 3d Cav. Div.*

EXHIBIT D.

HDQRS. COMPANY B, NINETY-SECOND ILLINOIS VOLS.

I hereby certify that I have this day conversed with William Castanach, private Company B, of said regiment, in relation to the circumstances connected with the wounds which he this day received while a prisoner in the hands of rebels, near Nickajack Trace, Ga., and that to the following questions I received from him the following answers:

Question. William, do you remember how you got hurt?
Answer. They shot me.
Question. What was you doing when they shot you?
Answer. I was running along.
Question. Did they make you double-quick?
Answer. More than that; they made us run.
Question. What did they say to you before they shot you?
Answer. "Move up there, or I will shoot you."
Question. What next?
Answer. Then they shot me.
Question. Was you walking when they shot you?
Answer. No; I was on a kind of a trot; I could not run any more.
Question. What did you do when they shot you?
Answer. I fell in the corner of the fence.
Question. Did they shoot you more than once?
Answer. Yes; they shot me twice.
Question. Do you know who shot you?
Answer. He was a lieutenant; I heard them call him lieutenant.

MILES B. LIGHT,

*Second Lieut. Co. B, Ninety-second Illinois Vols.*

EXHIBIT E.

Affidavits of Abram B. Sickler, Frederick W. Steuben, and William N. Irvine:

We, Abram B. Sickler, Frederick W. Steuben, and William N. Irvine, privates of Company H, Ninety-second Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry (mounted), Third Brigade, Third Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, do most solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that while on picket at Nickajack Trace, on the morning of April 23, A. D. 1864, a rebel force attacked our post in superior numbers; that they killed and captured over half our number, and

that after our pickets had surrendered we saw an officer of the army of the C. S. A. shoot Private R. J. A. O'Conner, of Company B, Ninety-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry (mounted), after he had surrendered himself as a prisoner of war.

ABRAM B. SICKLER.
FREDERICK W. STEUBEN.
WILLIAM N. IRVINE.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 24th day of April, A. D. 1864, at Ringgold, Ga.

I. C. LAWVER,
*First Lieutenant and Adjutant Ninety-second Illinois Vols.*

EXHIBIT F.

HDQRS. NINETY-SECOND ILL. VOL. MOUNTED INFANTRY,
*Ringgold, Ga., April 23,* 1864.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of killed and wounded of this regiment, the result of the fight at and near Nickajack Trace this morning:

In company with Surgeon Helm, of this regiment, acting brigade surgeon, I arrived on the ground between 8 and 9 o'clock, and found the following soldiers killed:*

I know of no fact connected with the death of McKeel, Downs, or Gifford that calls for special mention. Downs fell while fighting, but whether the other two were first overpowered and then murdered I cannot learn.

A lady residing near where the body of Hills was found states that she saw him deliver his gun and surrender himself to a rebel soldier. The man to whom he surrendered then pointed his gun at the breast of Hills and shot him. His coat bears the marks of burnt powder.

The following were found wounded:* Of these, 6 are fatally wounded, 1 (Butler) is dangerously wounded, 1 (Craddock) has a severe but not a dangerous wound on the hip. Butler was probably struck with the butt of a gun, but under what circumstances I cannot learn, as he is totally insensible. Rhoades states that he was first wounded in the right leg, fracturing both bones, and while seeking a place to lie down he was again shot, the ball passing through the thigh, fracturing the bone.

O'Conner, Castanach, Springer, Craddock, Marl, and Reynolds were all in the hands of the enemy, and without any attempts on their part to escape they were shot down.

A lady, at whose house I found O'Conner, stated to me that she saw a rebel soldier discharge his pistol at one of the prisoners, and going to the place found this soldier. O'Conner makes a statement to the same effect. The pretext for the act was that he did not march as fast as the rebels desired.

A citizen saw a rebel officer—a captain, he thinks—shoot Castanach. He was told by his captors to march faster, and with this command was shot in the right side, inflicting a severe wound; this was followed in a few minutes by another pistol shot, which passed through his left lung.

Springer states that he was double-quicked about one-fourth of a mile; then, being unable to travel as fast as his captors desired, was

* Nominal lists (omitted) show 4 killed and 8 wounded.

shot through the lungs. There is a large hole in this man's blouse, burnt by the powder of the pistol. Craddock and Marl were wounded under circumstances similar to the above.

Reynolds states that after he was taken a rebel lieutenant ordered him to take his boots off, which he proceeded to do, and while in the act the lieutenant shot him through the bowels.

Of the killed and wounded, 2 had not surrendered when shot; 7 were killed or wounded while in the hands of the enemy, prisoners of war; 3 I cannot learn the history sufficiently definitely to give an opinion how or where they were injured.

It is hardly necessary to say that the dead and dying were robbed of all their money and other valuables.

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS WINSTON,
*Assistant Surgeon, Ninety-second Ill. Vols., in Charge.*

Lieut. I. C. LAWVER,
*Adjutant Ninety-second Illinois Mounted Infantry.*

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**APRIL 24, 1864.—Affair near Decatur, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

DECATUR, ALA., *April* 24, 1864.

The rebels still hold the Somerville road. About 100 drove in Major Kuhn's scouts nearly to his camp at sundown, but were in turn driven back. One man of Kuhn's command severely wounded. All quiet on the other roads. The pickets are found on all the roads as before. A deserter came in from the Sixteenth Alabama. Says he was courier for Johnson. Gives the force as follows: Johnson, Williams, and Jackson, with six pieces of artillery, on the Courtland road; Patterson's regiment on the Moulton road; Pickett and Nixon east of the Moulton road, and Ashford's regiment in squads at various points. Says Clanton left for Tuscaloosa three days ago, and Moreland went to Mississippi. Says that Roddey is not there, and has not been in the valley. Estimates their whole force at 3,000, all told. Says that Stewart's battalion went south.

This is the most minute and circumstantial account I have yet had, and is important if true. A citizen came in this evening and says that Roddey is at Danville with 4,000 men.

[JAMES C. VEATCH,]
*Brigadier-General.*

Brigadier-General DODGE, *Athens.*

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**APRIL 24-25, 1864.—Scout from Ringgold to La Fayette, Ga.**

*Report of Col. Charles C. Smith, Tenth Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, Third Cavalry Division.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Ringgold, Ga., April* 25, 1864.

SIR: At 3 p. m., April 24, with 430 men of Tenth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, I left this place and proceeded via Leet's Mill to La Fayette

(20 miles); from thence (5 miles) easterly to Charles Colter's house on the old Alabama road, where I arrived at 11 p. m., with intention of capturing the rebel pickets (posted at Smith's and Mattock's Gaps through Taylor's Ridge) in the following manner, to wit: By sending two detachments of 25 men each to approach, at daybreak, either of the gaps, while the command, having accomplished the ascent of the ridge by a bridle-path midway between the gaps, would be divided, and each detachment proceed to the rear, and surrounding the reserves simultaneously with the advance of the detachment in front, drive the vedette to the rear. In this manner I hoped to be successful, but, having arrived at Colter's, soon learned that at the day of the capturing of our picket guard at Nickajack Gap the rebel pickets from said gap southerly had been withdrawn 3 miles to Dick's Ridge, their posts being connected by a cordon of vedettes.

Not having time to become acquainted with the country beyond Taylor's Ridge and get into rear of their line before daylight, I returned to this camp by the Alabama road, arriving at 5 a. m. this morning, distance 18 miles.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. C. SMITH,

*Colonel Tenth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Comdg. Brigade.*

[Capt. EDWARD W. WARD,]

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Third Cavalry Div.*

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**APRIL 25-27, 1864.—Expedition from Bull's Gap to Watauga River, Tenn.**

*Report of Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio.*

KNOXVILLE, *April* 27, 1864.

I have intelligence from the Watauga expedition. As was anticipated the rebels destroyed the bridge after being driven across it by our cavalry. The river was too high to be forded. Our loss in the fight was 3 killed and 18 wounded; that of the enemy not yet reported. The troops will reach Lick Creek to-night. They have destroyed all the bridges from Bull's Gap to the Watauga and about 20 miles of track. Considering the time allowed them think they have done remarkably well and all that could be desired.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,

*Major-General.*

Major-General SHERMAN.

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**APRIL 27, 1864.—Skirmish near Decatur, Ala.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. James C. Veatch, U. S. Army, commanding Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army Corps.*

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH DIVISION,

*Decatur, Ala., April* 28, 1864.

The rebels, about 300 strong, made a dash on our picket-lines on the Courtland and Moulton road about sundown yesterday. They were repulsed with loss of 2 killed and 1 wounded and captured. Our loss 2 missing. All quiet since.

The scout Hulse came in this morning. Says Roddey is at Sims' Mills, on Moulton and Danville road. Clanton at Somerville. Says a private from Lee's command came home and reports Lee in Tuscumbia Valley, advancing to join Roddey.

Armstrong has been to Flint and returned. Examination satisfactory. Have ordered my supply train to Athens as directed.

JAMES C. VEATCH,
*Brigadier-General.*

Brig. Gen. G. M. DODGE,
*Commanding Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps, Athens.*

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**APRIL 27, 1864.—Attack on Union pickets on Taylor's Ridge, near Ringgold, Ga.**

*Report of Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, U. S. Army, commanding Third Cavalry Division.*

RINGGOLD, GA., *April* 28, 1864.

The enemy attacked our pickets on Taylor's Ridge last night. They succeeded in getting between the outpost and reserve of the second post from camp on old Alabama road, and attacked the outpost but did not succeed in capturing any of them. They captured 5 out of 7 of the horses that were on the outpost. All quiet on the line.

Respectfully,

J. KILPATRICK,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Capt. J. E. JACOBS, *A. A. G.*

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**APRIL 27, 1864.—Skirmish on Troublesome Creek, Ky.**

*Report of Col. John M. Brown, Forty-fifth Kentucky Infantry, commanding brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., FIRST DIV., DIST. OF KENTUCKY,
*Lexington, Ky., April* 29, 1864.

CAPTAIN: Lieut. Col. L. M. Clark, commanding Forty-fifth Kentucky Mounted Infantry, at Irvine, reports by courier that Captain Adams with four companies of Forty-fifth Kentucky overtook a rebel force near the mouth of Troublesome Creek, in Breathitt County. He attacked and succeeded in killing 4 and capturing 16 prisoners, together with 24 horses and 28 stand of arms. Lieutenant-Colonel Clark indorses the report as reliable and accurate.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clark has also unofficial information that Captain Adams with his force, after the fight above mentioned, pursued Peter Everett and Weed Gay, who fled with 65 men. Adams ran them down, killed Gay, and captured 35 men.

I have the honor to be, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. MASON BROWN,
*Colonel, Commanding Fourth Brigade.*

Capt. J. S. BUTLER, *A. A. G.*

**APRIL 29, 1864.—Reconnaissance from Ringgold toward Tunnel Hill, Ga.**

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, U. S. Army, commanding Third Cavalry Division.

No. 2.—Capt. Edward W. Ward, Third Kentucky Cavalry.

No. 3.—Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps.

No. 4.—Brig. Gen. William Y. C. Humes, C. S. Army.

## No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, U. S. Army, commanding Third Cavalry Division.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Ringgold, Ga., April 29*, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I sent a detachment of 75 men under Captain Ward, Third Kentucky Cavalry, at daylight this morning, through Nickajack Gap, and accompanied another detachment of 500 men under Colonel Murray through Hooker's Gap, en route to Tunnel Hill, with the intention of surprising a Tennessee regiment encamped 1½ miles this side of that point. Brigadier-General Baird sent three regiments of infantry and a section of artillery to support the detachment if necessary.

Colonel Murray reached and drove in the enemy's outposts at daylight and pushed rapidly forward, but owing to the great number and character of the obstacles found in the road, the enemy had sufficient time to make all necessary preparations to resist his attack.

After a spirited skirmish, Colonel Murray quietly retired toward Stone Church. The enemy followed, cautiously at first, but on emerging into the open fields about 1 mile beyond the church, and seeing our small force, he became suddenly very bold and rushed on with his whole force, shouting and firing as he came. Colonel Murray faced about, and with the assistance of a regiment of infantry handsomely repulsed the attack and drove the enemy back, through and over the hills into the field and woods beyond, a distance of 2 miles.

Colonel Murray left his camp at 2.30 a. m. and returned at this 10 a. m., having lost 2 men killed and 9 wounded.

The enemy did not show at any one time over 1,500 or 2,000 men. So far as I was able to learn there are two Tennessee regiments encamped about 1½ miles this side Tunnel Hill. On the road to Hooker's Gap, three other Tennessee regiments are encamped near to the hill on the road to Cleveland. Major-General Wheeler and Brigadier-Generals Humes, Kelly, and Allen are in command of the cavalry, and their commands are all encamped near Tunnel Hill.

Captain Ward, who passed through Nickajack Gap, reports that he found nothing of the enemy till he had reached a point 2½ miles beyond the gap, on the route to Tunnel Hill. Here he found a strong picket and camp beyond, and reports having heard drums and the long roll beaten.

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* See also General Thomas' report, p. 19.

I find it about impossible to punish the enemy for his frequent attack on my pickets, as he withdraws his pickets and outposts at dark near to his camps and in rear of barricades, but I shall make every effort to do so and to render his attack fruitless.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. KILPATRICK,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Third Cavalry Division.*

Capt. J. E. JACOBS,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 2.

*Report of Capt. Edward W. Ward, Third Kentucky Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
*Ringgold, Ga., April 29, 1864.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that, in pursuance to verbal orders received from you, I proceeded with a detachment of 50 men of the Third Kentucky Cavalry to Nickajack Gap, to pass over Taylor's Ridge and come down the valley beyond by a road said to run at foot of Taylor's Ridge on the east side.

I left these headquarters at 1 o'clock this morning, and passed outside the pickets on the old Alabama road until I reached the last cavalry post on said road, which had fallen back from its old position at Lyle's farm to an old house this side about 1 mile.

I halted my command at this place, which is about 6½ miles from these headquarters, until three-quarters of an hour before day, when I directed the lieutenant in charge of the post to resume his old position at Lyle's farm, so that he could be in supporting distance of me in case I should be compelled to fall back. I moved up behind him and halted at Lyle's farm until he had resumed his position, when I moved on Nickajack Gap.

I crossed the ridge without opposition, and seeing no rebel pickets at the foot of the mountain, as was reported, went on Tunnel Hill road until I arrived in front of a gap in the next ridge, about 1½ miles farther on Tunnel Hill road, the place where the road turns off toward Ringgold. Here was a rebel picket; their vedettes were about 100 or 200 yards in front of the gap; their reserve was on the side of the mountain in the gap. I did not learn the strength of this last, because it could not be approached, on account of a valley of cleared land in front. There is a creek just before you get to the gap also.

Seeing no chance whatever to surprise or to successfully charge this post, I showed them a part of my command and withdrew. I took the road which comes down the valley just at the foot of the hill and continues at a distance of one-quarter of a mile from Taylor's Ridge for a distance of 4 miles, where there is a fork. One of these forks goes on one side of a ridge (which suddenly rises here) and the other goes on the other. The right-hand road forks again about three-quarters of a mile from where this fork is; one branch goes over to Mr. Hambright's, on the railroad, about 5 miles from Ringgold, and the other fork, the left-hand, joins the left-hand fork spoken of after passing around this sudden ridge, which is perhaps 2 miles. I took

the left-hand road, which comes right along the foot of Taylor's Ridge for some 3 miles before you arrive at the point where it is intersected by the other road. After arriving here I came to the conclusion that I was most too close to our lines, and I took a road directly east. Following a ridge for some 2 miles I went into the road going to Hambright's.

About this time I heard some skirmishing to my left and front. I started as near the direction as the nature of the country would admit of, and traveled on the road leading to Hambright's some 3 miles. The country was very rough, the road running down on a backbone of a ridge for some 2 miles. On either side of the road is a precipitous descent. I traveled some 3 miles on this road, when I ran up near to a rebel picket post on ridge that first post seen was on. This post was also in a gap, and the road leading into it was completely blockaded with fallen trees. While at the gap last mentioned, after I had been in front of the rebel pickets some minutes, there seemed to be a commotion at post, and I saw a good deal moving to and fro on the ridge; also heard distinctly drums beating just inside the gap where the enemy's pickets were. I went as near to the post as I could without unnecessarily exposing my men to fire, in hopes that when they saw my numbers they would pursue.

After remaining some ten minutes in front of this post, and knowing no other road by which I could come to the Stone Church, where I was ordered to report, I came immediately back the road where I had left Taylor's Ridge and came down at the foot of the ridge to Ringgold. Upon arriving at the gap I learned that you had passed in with your command, and I reported my command to these headquarters.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. W. WARD,
*Captain Third Kentucky Cavalry.*

Brig. Gen. J. KILPATRICK.

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No. 3.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, FOURTEENTH CORPS,
*Ringgold, Ga., April* 29, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that having learned yesterday from General Kilpatrick that he had received from General Thomas directions to attack and harass the pickets of the enemy as much as possible, and finding him, and indeed the whole of his command, from their recent arrival here, ignorant of the country and of the position of the enemy's troops, I thought that a proposition made by him to drive down impetuously upon the direct road to Tunnel Hill, surprising the pickets and reserves, and chasing them as far as possible, even into the headquarters of General Wheeler if he could, promised more for a first attempt than anything else.

I concurred in it, and to make him the more secure in case the rebels should turn upon him with very superior force, I sent Colonel Van Derveer along with four regiments and a section of artillery as a support. General Kilpatrick took out about 500 men. They came

upon the enemy's pickets just before daybreak and drove them back, but immediately on reaching the woods found the road so heavily blockaded with trees that speed was impossible. Behind these fallen trees the rebels took refuge and fired upon our advance, but gradually they were driven back nearly to Terrill's house, the same obstruction in the road continuing all the way.

The delay necessary to our advance permitted the rebels to collect and confront us with a force much superior to ours, including the infantry, which was up in line with the cavalry, and General Kilpatrick thought it proper to withdraw. He was not disturbed in this until he reached the open fields near Davis' house, when the rebels charged upon his rear. Quite a brisk skirmish ensued, but the enemy was driven back into the woods and our men quietly retired.

The enemy then resumed his former picket-line. We have had 10 men wounded, 2 perhaps fatally, and we know that we killed at least 2 or 3 of the enemy and captured 1.

We have learned the fact of the road being blockaded, and that the number of mounted men in our immediate front is still large; and above all the expedition has put increased confidence into our men.

General Kilpatrick has not yet had time to make me a written report.

The official reports of the affair at Nickajack were sent by Colonel Murray direct to General Elliott, and are no doubt in the possession of the major-general commanding. For this reason I have added nothing to my first report of that transaction.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. BAIRD,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. W. D. WHIPPLE,
*Chief of Staff.*

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No 4.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. William Y. C. Humes, C. S. Army.*

TUNNEL HILL, GA.,
*April* 29, 1864.

The enemy are pressing us with infantry, cavalry, and artillery on the Ringgold road.

W. Y. C. HUMES,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

General JOHNSTON.

—

TUNNEL HILL,
*April* 29, 1864.

A brigade of enemy's cavalry are coming through McLane's Gap, and the line of the enemy is still advancing. Humes' brigade has fallen back to within 1½ miles of Tunnel Hill. The enemy have only opened with one battery of artillery.

W. Y. C. HUMES,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

General J. E. JOHNSTON.

TUNNEL HILL., GA.,
*April* 29, 1864.

The following sent to General Johnston:

The enemy are extending their lines on our right, and indications of a strong force. I am falling back to Tunnel Hill slowly.

W. Y. C. HUMES.

General WHEELER.

[Indorsements.]

The enemy are using artillery occasionally.

ALLEN.

General Allen says do you want him to keep you posted. Answer.

CAMP.

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TUNNEL HILL, *April* 29, 1864.

GENERAL: The enemy in our immediate front have fallen back. Their advance line is now in the field near Jack's house, beyond Stone Church. Most of the force has retired through the gap. I am re-establishing the picket-line.

W. Y. C. HUMES,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

General MACKALL.

—

TUNNEL HILL,
*April* 29, 1864.

The enemy from Ringgold this morning were about 1,500 infantry, 2 pieces artillery, 300 cavalry. They have withdrawn to Ringgold Gap, and our pickets have been re-established. Our loss near 20 killed, wounded, and missing.

W. Y. C. HUMES,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. A. P. MASON,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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**APRIL 30, 1864.—Skirmish at Decatur, Ala.**

*Report of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Tennessee.*

HUNTSVILLE, ALA.,
*April* 30, 1864.

The enemy appeared before Decatur this morning with quite a force, and opened on the place with four pieces of artillery, A brigade went out and drove them off. Colonel Phillips is following them. We lost a few men killed and wounded. The object of the enemy was doubtless to feel our position. The attack will not delay Dodge's movement.

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
*Chattanooga*

**APRIL 30-MAY 9, 1864.—Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to Ripley, Miss., and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn.**

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, U. S. Army, commanding District of West Tennessee.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding expedition.
No. 3.—Itinerary of the First Brigade, Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, commanded by Col. George E. Waring, jr., Fourth Missouri Cavalry.
No. 4.—Maj. P. Jones Yorke, Second New Jersey Cavalry.
No. 5.—Itinerary of the First Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, commanded by Col. William L. McMillen, Ninety-fifth Ohio Infantry.

No. 1.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, U. S. Army, commanding District of West Tennessee.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., May* 4, 1864.

GENERAL: On the afternoon of the 2d instant the advance of Sturgis' cavalry, 700 strong, under Lieutenant-Colonel Kargé, Second New Jersey Cavalry, encountered a brigade of Forrest's cavalry near Bolivar, on the south side of Hatchie. The enemy were from 800 to 1,000 strong. After a severe fight of two hours the enemy retreated across the Hatchie, destroying the bridge. They retreated through Bolivar in a southeast direction. General Sturgis fears that Forrest has retreated between the Hatchie and Tennessee Rivers. He hears that the cars are running to Corinth, and that a part of General Polk's forces are below Corinth.

Our losses in the action were 2 killed and 10 wounded. My latest information from General Sturgis is to 7.30 o'clock yesterday morning, when he was 16 miles west of Bolivar but expected to have a large part of his cavalry force up to Bolivar by 12 o'clock yesterday. The heavy rains had so swollen the creeks as to greatly retard his movements.

I am, general, your obedient servant,

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General.*

Maj. Gen. S. A. HURLBUT, *Comdg. Sixteenth Army Corps.*

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HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, May* 6, 1864.

GENERAL: On the 30th ultimo I sent from here 3,300 cavalry and 2,000 infantry in pursuit of Forrest, under General Sturgis.

On the day following Forrest left Jackson, Tenn., in force, retreating south. My advance met a brigade of his in the afternoon of the 2d near Bolivar, and after a sharp engagement of two hours drove them from their intrenchments with considerable loss. They retreated across the Hatchie, destroying the bridge behind them.

Our loss, 2 killed, 10 wounded.

Forrest with his whole force encamped on night of 2d at Purdy, and continued his retreat the day following toward Pocahontas. He crossed the Hatchie at Pocahontas on the 4th, and Sturgis was in hot pursuit. A co-operating force which I expected from Bethel to be at Purdy on the night of 30th failed me or I should have capt-

ured his whole force. The Hatchie was very high and impassable anywhere below Bolivar. I still hope to punish him severely before he gets out of reach.

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General.*

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

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HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, May* 8, 1864. (Received 11th, 11 a. m.)

Forrest is driven out of West Tennessee. My forces followed him as far as East Mississippi, but his swift horses rendered farther pursuit unavailing. There is no organized enemy in West Tennessee or Kentucky.

You will next hear of Forrest near Decatur, Ala.

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General.*

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

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HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, May* 8, 1864.

Forrest was pursued by Sturgis as far as Ripley, when lack of forage compelled him to give up the chase. Forrest with all his force would be at Tupelo by the 6th instant. He is no doubt on his way to attack some of your weak points.

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General.*

Major-General MCPHERSON.

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HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WEST TENNESSEE,
*Memphis, Tenn., May* 8, 1864.

GENERAL: I send you a copy of my last dispatch from General Sturgis.* You will see that he is obliged to give over the chase after Forrest. I regret very much that we could not intercept and hold him or cut him up. I have done all that it was possible for any man to do since I came here. Could I have had a co-operating force from the Tennessee River, I should have had him fast.

On the night of the 2d instant he was at Purdy, with 4,000 or 5,000 men, retreating south. Could that point have been occupied before that we should have had him fast, for the swollen condition of the Hatchie would have prevented him from crossing to any point south of that stream. As it is, he is now no doubt proceeding with all his force to harass you. Of this I have advised you by telegraph. He would concentrate at Tupelo and move from there. The cars are running from Tupelo to Mobile. They are also running to Panola, with a break at Grenada. They are obtaining all the supplies they can from the lines of these roads, and General Polk, at Demopolis, has been drawing most of his supplies from these sources.

My cavalry will be in in three or four days. I have with Sturgis 3,500, and about 800 have arrived here since he left. I could rally now nearly 5,000 cavalry here, but 1,400 of that belongs to Vicksburg, viz. the Fourth Iowa, a part of which was stopped on its way down, and the balance, together with 300 men of Tenth Missouri, were brought up from there. These troops I must send back to Vicksburg.

*See p. 697, Sturgis to Washburn, May 7, 1864.

In the course of ten days I shall hope to receive an accession to my cavalry from the returning veteran regiments, and by that time my cavalry now with Sturgis will be recruited. Forrest will then be hovering around you. I shall be glad to then send the Vicksburg cavalry to that point overland, with a force of cavalry from here to see them safely through. I would send them out to the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, with instructions to follow the line from Tupelo well down to Meridian and effectually destroy the road so that it cannot again be repaired. I would then have them strike across to Yazoo City, destroying the railroad on the way between Canton and Grenada and capture Yazoo City if in possession of the enemy. If Yazoo City is occupied by the enemy, a force with gunboats could be sent up from Vicksburg to co-operate. After waiting at Yazoo City long enough to recruit the cavalry belonging here they could return, finishing destruction of Mississippi Central and Memphis and Mississippi Railroads, north of Grenada.

When they got ready to return from Yazoo City I would send out an infantry force from here to meet them at Panola, and see them safely back. If such a move as this should meet with approval I should like to be authorized to make it, when in my judgment it can be made successfully.

I have just received your telegram of the 6th, informing me that 5,000 militia from the northwest had been ordered to report to me. I don't want them unless the troops I now have are to be taken away, and had rather not have them. I have got all the troops I need for defense, and with my returning cavalry I can carry the war into Mississippi and Alabama, if you desire it. At Saint Louis is the Ninth Iowa Cavalry, fully armed, equipped, and mounted, 1,000 strong. They have been doing nothing for six months but guarding Benton Barracks. Why cannot we have them here?

The main object of Forrest's visit to West Tennessee, as avowed by himself, was to draw troops from General Sherman, to protect exposed points. In that he has signally failed. West Tennessee and Kentucky are now clear of any organized rebel force, and no place in this district is in any danger or in any way threatened.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. C. WASHBURN,
*Major-General, Commanding.*

Maj. Gen. J. B. MCPHERSON,
*Commanding Department of the Tennessee.*

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No. 2.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, U. S. Army, commanding expedition.*

HEADQUARTERS,
*Leake's, 15 Miles from Raleigh, May* 1, 1864—2.15 p. m.
(Received 2d.)

SIR: Owing to the heavy rains the roads were very bad, all the creeks being up and requiring bridges to be either repaired or rebuilt. The consequence was that the infantry did not reach Raleigh until 9 p. m. last evening. I have brought the wagons this far to enable me to get as far toward Somerville as possible to-day.

Ten miles farther will probably be all we can make.

I sent a party to open communication with McMillen's column, but as yet have heard nothing from him. I fear he has encountered more delay than we anticipated, as the rain was very heavy.

I am hoping to hear from him before leaving this point. It is difficult to gain any reliable information.

I have just sent for a negro who is reported to have said that Forrest is at Oakland with a large force. If so he may attempt to prevent the junction of our forces.

Word just in that our advance has been fired on some 2 miles ahead.

Respectfully,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

General WASHBURN.

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SOMERVILLE, *May* 2, 1864—11.30 a. m.

GENERAL: From all I can learn Forrest was preparing to start south about last Thursday, and that a portion of his force was expected to be at this place to-day. I am sending forward rapidly to Bolivar 700 select men, under Colonel Kargé, and a section of artillery, and will move after him with the remainder of my force at once.

Colonel McMillen has not reached this point, but I am directing him to hasten up and follow on as rapidly as possible. He will also transmit instructions to the commander of the force you sent out this morning to follow, bringing with them the bridge, as we may want it to cross the Hatchie.

Forrest has, beyond a doubt, a force of between 6,000 and 8,000. I hear nothing of any of our forces being in the vicinity of Purdy.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Major-General WASHBURN.

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HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES IN THE FIELD,
WIDOW ARMISS' HOUSE, 16 MILES FROM BOLIVAR,
ON SOMERVILLE ROAD,
*May* 3, 1864—7.15 a. m. (Received 6.30 p. m.)

GENERAL: I sent Colonel Kargé with 700 cavalry and two pieces of artillery from Colonel Waring's division forward from Somerville at 1 p. m. yesterday. His advance encountered the pickets of the enemy 7 miles west of Bolivar, capturing 2. He met the enemy in force, say 800 to 1,000 strong, at Bolivar. After two hours' severe fighting the enemy was driven from his intrenchments and retreated through the town in a southeasterly direction, I presume toward Pocahontas, though the colonel does not say. The enemy destroyed the bridge over the Hatchie. The reports of citizens are very contradictory; some say Forrest was there in person, some say not. It is possible that the main body of the enemy is retreating on the east bank of the river. I expected to reach Bolivar yesterday. I am detained very much by the delay of Colonel McMillen's column. I have not yet even received information that he succeeded in crossing the Wolf, which, according to his last dispatch, he expected to cross last night. I was compelled to leave a force at Somerville to

guard against a threatened movement from the direction of Estenaula crossing. I am moving the whole of Colonel Waring's column to Bolivar, which place it will reach by 1 p. m. I have again ordered Colonel McMillen to come up with all possible dispatch. Had Colonel McMillen joined me yesterday I am confident that the entire force of the enemy at Bolivar might have been destroyed.

Colonel McMillen said yesterday that his bridge was very inferior and broke down at the early part of the crossing.

I have quite reliable information that the railroad is completed to Corinth, and that General Polk is collecting his army there. Our loss yesterday is estimated at 2 killed and 10 wounded; that of the enemy had not been ascertained.

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Major-General WASHBURN.

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HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
*Salem, Miss., May 7, 1864.*

GENERAL: In reaching Ripley yesterday, I found that the rear of Forrest's command had passed through that place nearly two days before. It was there that I had hoped almost against hope to intercept him, but as he was abundantly supplied with forage he was enabled to travel night and day and thus elude our most strenuous exertions. Still I should have continued the pursuit had it not been for the utter and entire destitution of the country from Bolivar to Ripley, a distance of 40 miles. My horses had scarcely anything to eat, and my artillery horses absolutely nothing. Had I penetrated one day's march farther and found the forage equally scarce, as all my information led me to conclude, I should have not only failed to overtake Forrest but would have been compelled to abandon my artillery and a great many cavalry horses, as they could not have returned over that increased distance. I need hardly assure you that it was with greatest reluctance and after mature deliberation with myself and my principal officers that I resolved to abandon the chase as hopeless. I will remain to-morrow in camp near this place for the purpose of feeding and resting, and the meantime can hear from you. Though we could not catch the scoundrel we are at least rid of him, and that is something.

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General WASHBURN.

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HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
ROBINSON'S HOUSE, 2 MILES FROM SALEM,
ON SALEM AND MOSCOW ROAD,
*May 8*, 1864—2.30 p. m.

GENERAL: Your dispatch of this a m. is received. This command will reach the vicinity of Moscow to-morrow night. If you can send some forage there by that time it would be well to do so.

Very respectfully,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Major-General WASHBURN.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 13, 1864.

GENERAL: My little campaign is over, and, I regret to say, Forrest is still at large. He did not come to West Tennessee for the purpose of fighting, unless it might so happen that he could fall upon some little party or defenseless place, and being well mounted and having, of course, every facility for gaining information of our movements it is idle to follow him except with an equal force of cavalry, which we have not in that part of the country. I say except with an equal force of cavalry, but even then he has so many advantages and is so disposed to run that I feel that all that could be done in any case would be to drive him out, unless, indeed, he might be trapped, as would certainly, I think, have been the case had a force been sent to co-operate with mine at Purdy.

I regret very much that I could not have the pleasure of bringing you his hair, but he is too great a plunderer to fight anything like an equal force, and we have to be satisfied with driving him from the State. He may turn on your communications and I rather think he will, but see no way to prevent it from this point and with this force.

I inclose you a copy of my report to General Washburn.

When at Nashville I intimated that it was important I should be at Covington, Ky., for a short time, and I will repair to that point and await your instructions, unless I hear of your moving in the mean time and see an opening where I might be useful.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General.*

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
*Nashville, Tenn., Comdg Division of the Mississippi.*

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES IN THE FIELD,
*Memphis, Tenn., May* 12, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this command, consisting of Col. George E. Waring's cavalry division, 3,000 strong, with six pieces of artillery and four mountain howitzers; Col. W. L. McMillen's infantry brigade, 2,000 strong, with six pieces of artillery; and Colonel Harris' infantry brigade, 1,400 strong, with four pieces of artillery.

In compliance with Special Orders, No. 7, headquarters District of West Tennessee, issued April 29, the Cavalry Division (excepting the Fourth Regiment Iowa Cavalry) and the One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry moved early on the morning of the 30th ultimo in the direction of Somerville, while Colonel McMillen's brigade, provided with a pontoon bridge, were transported by railroad to Grissom's Station, where it would be joined by the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, with instructions to cross the Wolf River there and join the cavalry at Somerville. Owing to the heavy rains the roads were in very bad condition, and the delays occasioned in constructing and repairing bridges rendered it impossible for the cavalry column to move beyond Raleigh, 15 miles from Memphis.

Early the next morning (May 1) the march was resumed, and the wagons used for the transportation of the One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry ordered to report at Memphis, under a cavalry escort from the halt made during the day, 15 miles east of Raleigh.

This column encamped for the night 23 miles east of Raleigh, and entered Somerville Monday morning, the 2d instant, at 11 a. m.,

when I halted the cavalry to await the approach of Colonel McMillen's brigade, who informed me by courier that he had succeeded in crossing the Wolf River with one regiment of infantry and three companies of cavalry. The regiment of infantry he immediately sent forward to bridge the north fork of the same stream. I subsequently received word from him that in attempting to cross his train the bridge, which he reported as being a very imperfect and bad one, was rendered completely useless by a wagon breaking through and sinking one of the boats. This made it necessary to construct a new bridge, and the remainder of his command could not be moved over until 3 o'clock Tuesday morning (May 3).

Having received information that Forrest was concentrating his force at Jackson with the intention of moving south, and also intelligence from the major-general commanding the district that it had been unofficially reported to him that a division of our infantry had moved up the Tennessee River with the intention of occupying Purdy, and thus to cut off Forrest's line of retreat in that direction, I did not deem it safe to move forward the entire cavalry force until the infantry had arrived to within supporting distance, or had at least effected the crossing of the Wolf River and its fork, as it would have enabled the enemy to pass over the Hatchie River at the Estenaula crossing, on the direct road from Somerville to Jackson, by means of the pontoon he had with him, and to move between the cavalry and Colonel McMillen's infantry brigade, thus giving him an opportunity to destroy both in detail. Under these circumstances I ordered Colonel Waring, at 1 p. m., May 2, to send Colonel Kargé forward to Bolivar with the Second New Jersey and Tenth Missouri Cavalry, with two pieces of artillery (in all, 700 strong), for the purpose of gaining more definite information of the enemy's movements, and, if possible, to secure the bridge he had thrown across the Hatchie River at that point. The remainder of Colonel Waring's division I halted 5 miles from Somerville, on the Bolivar road, to support Colonel Kargé should he meet with any considerable force, or to oppose an advance from the Estenaula crossing should that be attempted, until I could gain satisfactory tidings from Colonel McMillen, to whom I had sent word to move up with all dispatch.

During the night I received information from Colonel Kargé that his advance had encountered the enemy's vedettes, 7 miles from Bolivar, to which place he pursued them, and then met the enemy with a force equal if not larger than his own, commanded by Forrest in person. After a sharp engagement of nearly an hour's duration he had succeeded in dislodging the enemy from the earth-works and rifle-pits, which had been thrown up there before, and finally drove him through the swampy bottoms in the direction of Pocahontas and Middleton, not, however, until the bridge over the Hatchie River had been destroyed. Our loss in this engagement was 2 killed and 10 wounded. The enemy's loss was much heavier, owing to the determination of our troops and the superiority of our arms and artillery, which the enemy was not at all provided with. Among his wounded were several officers, including Forrest's adjutant-general, whose arm was shattered by a carbine ball.

I immediately ordered the entire cavalry force to move to Bolivar at daylight in the morning (May 3), and ordered Colonel McMillen to join there as rapidly as possible with his own brigade, as well as the additional infantry force commanded by Colonel Harris, and which had overtaken him while bridging the Wolf River.

The cavalry arrived at Bolivar on the afternoon of the 3d instant, so as to push forward toward Purdy and to co-operate with the force from the Tennessee River, which I judged, from the information received, had arrived from Cairo and was moving in that direction also. In the mean time I had sent 200 of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, commanded by Captains Woods and ——, of the same regiment, to the Brownsville and Estenaula crossings, with instructions to press laborers and tools, and to lay out timber for bridges, thus to occupy the attention of the enemy and prevent his crossing there until a new bridge could be built at Bolivar, so as to move on to Purdy.

The infantry and the supply train arrived at Bolivar on the 4th instant, at noon, where the remainder of the day was consumed in issuing rations and affording the infantry a short and necessary rest.

The bridge was nearly completed when I felt convinced from information brought in by scouts that the rear of Forrest's command had reached Purdy on Monday night, the 2d instant, and that his entire force was pushing on to Tupelo, Miss.; also that there was no co-operating force moving up from the Tennessee River.

The enemy, having all cavalry, was enabled to move much more rapidly, and could keep our pursuing force, the greater portion being infantry, at any distance he might desire. Though he had already a two days' march the advantage, and a rapid and unfordable stream as a safe barrier against any flank movement, I ordered Colonel Waring to pursue with his cavalry division at daylight on the morning of the 5th and to move as far in the direction of Ripley as possible, thinking that the enemy would make a stand there to enable him to move off the immense train of supplies he was reported as sending down by way of Corinth.

On the 6th instant I directed Colonel Waring to send reconnoitering parties to Ripley, to Hatchietown, and to Salem, and with his command at Mud Creek (8 miles north of Ripley) I directed him to await the arrival of the infantry, which came up in the afternoon of the same day.

Information brought in by the reconnoitering forces as well as that derived from prisoners captured at Ripley, from citizens of that place, and a deserter, proved beyond a doubt that Forrest's forces had again united at Tupelo, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and were moving toward Okolona. The immense trains he was reported as having brought with him was an entire exaggeration, and consisted only of pressed wagons for the transportation of sufficient forage to give two brigades a two days' supply at Corinth and five days' rations to his men, and were released and returned to their owners.

Knowing that a further pursuit in a country entirely destitute of forage would compel me to abandon much of my artillery in another day, from the fact that many horses had already given out and been abandoned along the road, and it being represented to me that the condition of the horses of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry in particular was such that it would necessitate the abandoning of one-half of them unless they could have ample rest and forage, I therefore held a consultation with commanding officers of divisions and brigades, who unanimously agreed with me to move back to the railroad terminus, and were of the opinion that to continue the pursuit to Tupelo or Okolona would be certain disaster to ourselves unless amply provided with rations and forage necessary for such a campaign.

On the morning of the 7th the infantry, followed by the cavalry, therefore marched to 4 miles beyond Salem, and the whole command

encamped on the Lamar road. The troops being exhausted from long and fatiguing marches, and the horses much jaded and broken down, I did not move on Sunday, the 8th instant, but allowed both men and animals to rest.

Receiving the dispatch of the major-general commanding the same afternoon to return to Moscow, and informing me that trains would be there to receive the infantry, I moved the command to Grissom's Station the next day (9th instant), where the greater portion of the infantry was embarked on the cars and arrived at Memphis in the night. The remainder of the infantry arrived at Memphis on Monday, the 10th instant, while instructions were given Colonel Waring, commanding the cavalry, to return to Memphis with his division and to escort the wagon train and artillery.

Though it is desirable to have chronicled a defeat and rout of the enemy, the results of the expedition are the same; his forces were divided and compelled to abandon a section of country he had so long occupied. His thorough knowledge of the country, and the advantage in having good [horses], together with the sympathies of the people in giving him information of our movements, enabled him to beat a rapid retreat to Mississippi, into which State he was pursued for 30 miles, and the chase only then given up when the poverty and barrenness of the country to subsist an army unprovided for a regular campaign made it necessary. The plan of campaign suggested by Major-General Washburn was based in a measure upon the idea of a co-operating force at Purdy, and had that force been in position it would have closed the only door by which Forrest's command could possibly have escaped, and I believe would have resulted in its capture or destruction.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank the general commanding the district for the promptness with which everything in his power was furnished me to render the expedition successful.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. D. STURGIS,
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Expedition.*

Maj. WILLIAM H. MORGAN, *A. A. G.*

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No. 3.

*Itinerary of the First Brigade, Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, commanded by Col. George E. Waring, jr., Fourth Missouri Cavalry.**

April 30, the mounted part of this brigade, under Colonel Kargé, Second New Jersey Cavalry, marched out the Randolph road to Raleigh; 17 miles.

May 1, on the march. The brigade, under command of Colonel Kargé, Second New Jersey Cavalry, Colonel Waring in command of the Cavalry Division, left Raleigh, Tenn., and marched to Oakland; 22 miles.

May 2, marched from Oakland to Bolivar; 32 miles. Engaged Forrest, commanding superior forces in person; beat him. The brigade lost 2 killed and 5 wounded; enemy lost 7 dead and 20 wounded, including 4 officers.

May 5, marched from Bolivar to near Ripley, Miss.; 35 miles.

* From returns for April and May, 1864.

May 6, marched on the Ruckersville road ; 8 miles.
May 7, marched to beyond Salem, Miss.; 16 miles.
May 9, marched to Grissom's Bridge ; 18 miles.
May 10, marched to Germantown, Tenn.; 15 miles.
May 11, marched to White's Station, Tenn.; 5 miles. Colonel Waring assumed command. The camp was moved from Fort Pickering to White's Station. Remained in camp during the rest of the month, sending large and small parties out to the east and southeast.
May 22, one scouting party of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry was attacked by a large party of rebels while passing over very broken ground, near Mount Pleasant, Miss.; lost 8 killed and 4 wounded and prisoners.

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No. 4.

*Report of Maj. P. Jones Yorke, Second New Jersey Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND NEW JERSEY CAVALRY,
*White's Station, Tenn., May* 11, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that on the 30th of April a force under the command of Brigadier-General Sturgis left Memphis in pursuit of General Forrest.

On the 2d of May we reached Somerville, Tenn., and halted. It being ascertained that a force of the enemy held the town of Bolivar, on the Hatchie River, a distance of 23 miles from Somerville, Colonel Kargé, commanding the First Cavalry Brigade, was sent forward with a force consisting of 200 of the Tenth Missouri Cavalry, 400 of the Second New Jersey Cavalry, and a section of guns belonging to the Tenth Missouri Cavalry. Starting at 1.30 p. m., we made a forced and very rapid march, and found the enemy, 800 strong, under command of Major-General Forrest, in position behind strong intrenchments and fortifications, about 1 mile from Bolivar. After a severe engagement of two hours' duration we routed the enemy and drove them from their intrenchments and through the town, and but for the lateness of the hour (it being after 8 p. m.) and our utter ignorance of the country through which the enemy retreated, would have captured or destroyed the entire force.

The loss of our regiment in this action was 2 killed, 5 wounded, and 20 horses killed and wounded.

The names of the killed are: Orderly Sergt. E. E. Cooper, Company F, and Private George Schweitzer, Company H. The 5 wounded are: Frank Malone, Company A; Oscar Rudolph, Company A; Michael McSorley, Company F; Martin Pirman, Company F; John Egan, Company H.

The regiment behaved nobly, and especially I would mention Company E, under command of Lieut. Lewis Rainear, who opened and took the brunt of the action.

I am happy to say that the Second New Jersey Cavalry enjoys the best reputation, and the esteem not only of the commanding general, but all the troops in this department.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. JONES YORKE,
*Major, Commanding.*

General ROBERT F. STOCKTON,
*Adjutant-General, State of New Jersey.*

No. 5.

*Itinerary of the First Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, commanded by Col. William L. McMillen, Ninety-fifth Ohio Infantry.**

This brigade marched as part of an expedition under Brigadier-General Sturgis on April 30. It proceeded by rail to within 4 miles of Moscow, Tenn., where the bridge across Wolf River was destroyed. It was detained there building a bridge.

May 2, marched in the direction of Somerville, Tenn., going some 5 miles before encamping.

May 3, marched to within 8 miles of Bolivar.

May 4, reached Bolivar, where the brigade found the cavalry forces under General Sturgis; remained until next day.

May 5, whole force marched out on the Pocahontas road; marched in a southerly direction until the evening of the 7th, when it reached Salem, Miss., and encamped.

May 9, marched in the direction of Memphis, reaching that city the same evening, since which time it has been doing picket duty at this place.

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* From return for May, 1864.

# ALTERNATE DESIGNATIONS

OF

# ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS VOLUME.*

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**Abeel's** (Alfred) **Cavalry.** See *Michigan Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Adams'** (Wirt) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Aken's** (William S.) **Infantry.** See *Union Troops* (*Colored*), 51*st Regiment.*
**Akin's** (James H.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate, 9th Battalion.*
**Alabama First Siege Artillery, A. D.** See *Union Troops* (*Colored*), 6*th Regiment, Heavy.*
**Allen's** (George F.) **Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, Union, 1st Regiment* (*Vedette*).
**Allison's** (Roliand H.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 53d Regiment.*
**Almon's** (Harry) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 31st Regiment.*
**Anderson Cavalry.** See *Pennsylvania Troops, 15th Regiment.*
**Anderson's** (Nathan) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 32d Regiment.*
**Anderson's** (William B.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 60th Regiment.*
**Ashby's** (H. M.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Ashford's** (Frederick A.) **Infantry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 16th Regiment.*
**Baker's** (Alpheus) **Infantry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 54th Regiment.*
**Baker's** (Myron) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 74th Regiment.*
**Ballentine's** (John G.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Barbour Artillery.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate.*
**Barnes'** (George F.) **Cavalry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 16th Regiment.*
**Barnum's** (William L.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 11th Regiment.*
**Barry's** (Robert L.) **Artillery.** See *Lookout Artillery, post.*
**Barry's** (Robert P.) **Infantry.** See *Union Troops, Regulars, 16th Regiment, 1st Battalion.*
**Barteau's** (C. R.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Bassford's** (Stephen A.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 94th Regiment.*
**Bates'** (J. C.) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Beatty's** (John W.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 7th Regiment.*
**Beebe's** (Yates V.) **Artillery.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 10th Battery.*
**Beeres'** (Charles H.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 16th Regiment.*
**Belknap's** (William W.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 15th Regiment.*
**Bell's** (William B.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 8th Regiment.*
**Bennett's** (John E.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 75th Regiment.*
**Benteen's** (Frederick W.) **Cavalry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 10th Regiment.*
**Benton's** (Coleman D.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 8th Regiment.*
**Berry's** (T. G.) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Bingham's** (George B.) **Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 1st Regiment.*
**Bishop's** (William W.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 49th Regiment.*
**Blackburn's** (Joseph H.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 5th Regiment.*
**Blackburn's** (Thomas J.) **Artillery.** See *Ohio Troops, 3d Battery.*
**Bledsoe's** (Willis S.) **Bushwhackers.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Willis S. Bledsoe.*

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* References, unless otherwise indicated, are to index following.

**Bolen's** (Captain) **Cavalry.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Captain Bolen.*
**Boone's** (J. Rowan) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 28th Regiment.*
**Boone's** (William P.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 28th Regiment.*
**Booth's** (Lionel F.) **Heavy Artillery.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 6th Regiment.*
**Bouanchaud's** (Alcide) **Artillery.** See *Pointe Coupée Artillery, post, Battery A.*
**Bowman's** (Charles S.) **Cavalry.** See *Union Troops, Regulars, 4th Regiment.*
**Boyles'** (William) **Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 56th Regiment.*
**Bradford's** (William F.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union.*
**Bradley's** (Daniel) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 20th Regiment.*
**Briant's** (Cyrus E.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 88th Regiment.*
**Brookhaven Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Brown's** (George R.) **Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 9th Battery.*
**Brown's** (William N.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 20th Regiment.*
**Browne's** (Thomas M.) **Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 7th Regiment.*
**Brownlow's** (James P.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 1st Regiment.*
**Brumback's** (Jefferson) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 95th Regiment.*
**Buckner Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Burgh's** (Henry B.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Burnett's** (Henry S.) **Infantry.** See *Michigan Troops, 10th Regiment.*
**Buswell's** (Nicholas C.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 93d Regiment.*
**Camp's** (John L.) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 14th Regiment.*
**Carey's** (Oliver H. P.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 36th Regiment.*
**Carr's** (Henry M.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 72d Regiment.*
**Carter's** (James E.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Carter's** (Joe) **Bushwhackers, Cavalry.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Joe Carter.*
**Caudill's** (D. J.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Confederate, 11th Regiment.*
**Chalmers'** (Alexander H.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 18th Battalion.*
**Chapman's** (James F.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 122d Regiment.*
**Charpentier's** (Stephen) **Artillery.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate.*
**Cheek's** (Christopher T.) **Cavalry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 5th Regiment.*
**Chicago Board of Trade Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops.*
**Cladek's** (John J.) **Infantry.** See *New Jersey Troops, 35th Regiment.*
**Claiborne's** (James R.) **Cavalry.** See *Virginia Troops, 37th Battalion.*
**Clancy's** (Charles W.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 52d Regiment.*
**Clark Artillery.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate.*
**Cleary's** (William) **Cavalry.** See *William F. Bradford's Cavalry, ante.*
**Coates'** (James H.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 11th Regiment.*
**Cockerill's** (Armstead T. M.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 24th Regiment.*
**Collins'** (Garrett L.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Columbus Artillery.** See *Georgia Troops.*
**Cook's** (Alphonso F.) **Cavalry.** See *Virginia Troops, 8th Regiment.*
**Cook's** (Jeremiah B.) **Cavalry.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 3d Regiment.*
**Cook's** (William R.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 2d Regiment.*
**Coon's** (Datus E.) **Cavalry.** See *Iowa Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Cooper's** (Charles S.) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment, Battery D.*
**Corbin's** (Henry C.) **Infantry.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 14th Regiment.*
**Corns'** (James M.) **Cavalry.** See *Virginia Troops, 8th Regiment.*
**Cowan's** (James J.) **Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery G.*
**Crandal's** (Frederick M.) **Infantry.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 48th Regiment.*
**Crews'** (J. M.) **Cavalry.** See *Charles McDonald's Cavalry, post.*
**Croft's** (Edward) **Artillery.** See *Columbus Artillery, ante.*
**Crosley's** (George W.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 3d Regiment.*
**Cross'** (William) **Infantry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 3d Regiment.*
**Crossland's** (Ed.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Confederate, 7th Regiment.*

**Crowe's** (Samuel S.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 93d Regiment.*
**Culberson's** (A. B.) **Cavalry.** See *Georgia Troops, 6th Battalion State Guards.*
**Cunningham's** (Richard D.) **Heavy Artillery.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 8th Regiment.*
**Curtis'** (Isaac W.) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery K.*
**Darden's** (Putnam) **Artillery.** See *Jefferson Artillery, post.*
**Davenport's** (William) **Home Guards.** See *Georgia Troops.*
**Davidson's** (Francis M.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 14th Regiment.*
**Davidson's** (Henry G.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 10th Regiment.*
**Davis'** (Reuben A.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 11th Regiment.*
**Davis'** (William P.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 23d Regiment.*
**De Groat's** (Charles H.) **Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 32d Regiment.*
**Dibrell's** (George G.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Dickerson's** (Christopher J.) **Infantry.** See *Michigan Troops, 10th Regiment.*
**Dillard's Home Guards.** (Official designation not of record.) See ——— *Dillard.*
**Dilworth's** (Caleb J.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 85th Regiment.*
**Dollard's** (Peter) **Company.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Peter Dollard.*
**Doss'** (W. L.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 14th Regiment.*
**Drake's** (J. L.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 33d Regiment.*
**Duckworth's** (William L.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Duer's** (John O.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 45th Regiment.*
**Duff's** (William L.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 19th Battalion.*
**Dumonteil's** (F.) **Cavalry.** See *Confederate Troops, Regulars, 14th Regiment.*
**Dunlop's** (Isaac L.) **Infantry.** See *Arkansas Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Earle's** (R. G.) **Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 2d Regiment.*
**Earp's** (C. R.) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 10th Regiment.*
**Eaton's** (Charles G.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 72d Regiment.*
**Ekings'** (Robert M.) **Infantry.** See *New Jersey Troops, 34th Regiment.*
**Elkin's** (Rush L.) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 27th Regiment.*
**Elliott's** (Marcus D.) **Artillery.** See *Michigan Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery H.*
**English's** (George H.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 32d Regiment.*
**Estes'** (Benjamin P.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 13th Regiment.*
**Exum's** (James T.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 5th Regiment.*
**Farnan's** (James) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 5th Regiment.*
**Farrar's** (Josiah) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 99th Regiment.*
**Farrell's** (M.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 15th Regiment.*
**Faulkner's** (W. W.) **Cavalry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Confederate, 12th Regiment.*
**Febles'** (John C.) **Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 7th Regiment.*
**Ferguson's** (Champ) **Guerrillas.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Champ Ferguson.*
**Ferguson's** (Milton J.) **Cavalry.** See *Virginia Troops, 16th Regiment.*
**Fitch's** (John A.) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery E.*
**Flournoy's** (P. C.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 2d and 6th Regiments.*
**Forney's** (George H.) **Infantry.** See *Confederate Troops, Regulars, 1st Battalion.*
**Forrest's Escort Cavalry.** See *Forrest Guards, post.*
**Forrest Guards Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Forrest's** (Jeffrey E.) **Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate.*
**Foster's** (John S.) **Cavalry.** See *Ohio Troops, 4th Company.*
**Fowle's** (Nathaniel W.) **Mounted Rifles.** See *Kentucky Troops, Confederate, 3d Battalion.*
**Fry's** (John C.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 20th Regiment.*
**Gallup's** (George W.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 14th Regiment.*
**Gates'** (Elijah) **Cavalry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 1st and 3d Regiments.*
**George's** (James Z.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 5th Regiment.*
**George's** (John F.) **Infantry.** See *Massachusetts Troops, 2d Regiment.*

**Gifford's** (Ira R.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Gilbert's** (James I.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 27th Regiment.*
**Ginn's** (Thomas J.) **Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 3d Battery.*
**Gittings'** (Erskine) **Artillery.** See *Union Troops, Regulars, 3d Regiment, Batteries L and M.*
**Gleason's** (Newell) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 87th Regiment.*
**Good's** (Joseph) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 108th Regiment.*
**Goodnow's** (James) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 12th Regiment.*
**Goodspeed's** (Wilbur F.) **Artillery.** See *Ohio Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery A.*
**Gray's** (Thomas P.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 7th Regiment.*
**Green's** (George) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 78th Regiment.*
**Griffith's** (John) **Infantry.** See *Arkansas Troops, 11th Regiment.*
**Grower's** (William T. C.) **Infantry.** See *New York Troops, 17th Regiment.*
**Hall's** (George R.) **Infantry.** See *New York Troops, 123d Regiment.*
**Hall's** (William) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 11th Regiment.*
**Hamilton's** (Oliver P.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Hammond's** (John W.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 65th Regiment.*
**Hampton Legion.** See *South Carolina Troops.*
**Hannon's** (M. W.) **Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 53d Regiment.*
**Hardee's** (Henry W.) **Artillery.** See *Minnesota Troops, 2d Battery.*
**Hardy's** (Major) **Battalion.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Major Hardy.*
**Harmon's** (Oscar F.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 125th Regiment.*
**Harris'** (Clark M.) **Artillery.** See *Michigan Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery A.*
**Harris'** (J. L.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Harris'** (Samuel J.) **Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 19th Battery.*
**Harris'** (William C.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 38th Regiment.*
**Harrison's** (Thomas J.) **Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 8th Regiment.*
**Hawkins'** (A. T.) **Sharpshooters.** See *Mississippi Troops, 15th Battalion.*
**Hawkins'** (Edwin R.) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 27th Regiment.*
**Hawkins'** (Isaac R.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 7th Regiment.*
**Haymond's** (Henry) **Infantry.** See *Union Troops, Regulars, 18th Regiment, 2d Battalion.*
**Heath's** (William H.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 33d Regiment.*
**Heilman's** (William H.) **Artillery.*** See *Union Troops, Regulars, 4th Regiment, Battery H.*
**Heinrichs'** (Gustav) **Cavalry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 4th Regiment.*
**Helena Artillery.** See *Arkansas Troops.*
**Helmer's** (Robert W.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 7th Regiment.*
**Henderson's** (R. J.) **Infantry.** See *Georgia Troops, 42d Regiment.*
**Henry's** (William A.) **Infantry.** See *New Jersey Troops, 35th Regiment.*
**Hepburn's** (William P.) **Cavalry.** See *Iowa Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Hess'** (Joseph C.) **Cavalry.** See *Pennsylvania Troops, 19th Regiment.*
**Hibbetts'** (Jefferson J.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 32d Regiment.*
**Hicks'** (Stephen G.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 40th Regiment.*
**Hill's** (Sylvester G.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 35th Regiment.*
**Holahan's** (Amos J.) **Cavalry.** See *Pennsylvania Troops, 19th Regiment.*
**Holt's** (H. C.) **Artillery.** See *Buckner Artillery, ante.*
**Hoole's** (James L.) **Artillery.** See *Pettus Flying Artillery, post.*
**Hoskins'** (James A.) **Artillery.** See *Brookhaven Artillery, ante.*
**Hotchkiss'** (William A.) **Artillery.** See *Minnesota Troops, 2d Battery.*
**House's** (William T.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 32d Regiment.*
**Hovis'** (L. B.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 1st Regiment, Partisan Rangers.*
**Howe's** (James H.) **Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 32d Regiment.*
**Howe's** (John H.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 124th Regiment.*

* Temporarily commanding.

**Hubbard's** (Lucius F.) **Infantry.** See *Minnesota Troops, 5th Regiment.*
**Hunter's** (Alexander M.) **Artillery.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 2d Regiment, Battery D.*
**Hurd's** (Orrin D.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 30th Regiment.*
**Hurst's** (Fielding) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 6th Regiment.*
**Inge's** (W. M.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 12th Regiment.*
**Innes'** (William P.) **Engineers.** See *Michigan Troops, 1st Regiment.*
**Ives'** (Samuel S.) **Infantry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 35th Regiment.*
**Jackson's** (James) **Infantry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 27th Regiment.*
**Jefferson Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Jefferson's** (John W.) **Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 8th Regiment.*
**Jeffress'** (William C.) **Artillery.** See *Nottoway Artillery, post.*
**Jenkins'** (Jeremiah W.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 31st Regiment.*
**Jessup's** (William) **Cavalry.** See *Ohio Troops, 5th Regiment.*
**Johnston's** (Henry S.) **Artillery.** See *Clark Artillery, ante.*
**Jolly's** (John H.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 89th Regiment.*
**Jones'** (Charles C.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 76th Regiment.*
**Jones'** (Dudley W.) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Jones'** (William) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 53d Regiment.*
**Kammerling's** (Gustave) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Kargé's** (Joseph) **Cavalry.** See *New Jersey Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Kenner's** (P. M.) **Cavalry.** See *Orleans Light Horse Cavalry, post.*
**Kentucky First Heavy Artillery, A. D.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 8th Regiment.*
**Kern's** (Louis) **Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 6th Battery.*
**Kerr's** (Lucien H.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 11th Regiment.*
**Ketner's** (James) **Infantry.** See *Kansas Troops, 1st Regiment.*
**Key's** (Thomas J.) **Artillery.** See *Helena Artillery, ante.*
**Kilborn's** (Lawson S.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 72d Regiment.*
**Kilgour's** (William M.) **Infantry.*** See *Illinois Troops, 80th Regiment.*
**Kimble's** (Thomas V.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 37th Regiment.*
**King's** (Houston) **Artillery.** See *Clark Artillery, ante.*
**King's** (John F.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 114th Regiment.*
**Kinney's** (Thomas J.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 119th Regiment.*
**Kirkbride's** (Andrew B.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 3d Regiment.*
**Klein's** (Robert) **Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 3d Regiment.*
**Knap's** (Joseph M.) **Artillery.** See *Pennsylvania Troops, Battery E.*
**Knispel's** (Charles P.) **Artillery.** See *Missouri Troops, Union.*
**Kolb's** (Reuben F.) **Artillery.** See *Barbour Artillery, ante.*
**Kuhn's** (John H.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Lamberg's** (Carl A.) **Artillery.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 2d Regiment, Battery D.*
**Langen's** (Edward) **Cavalry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 4th Regiment.*
**Larkin's** (Victor C.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 25th Regiment.*
**Latham's** (Ephraim) **Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, Union, 1st Regiment (Vedette).*
**Leaming's** (Mack J.) **Cavalry.** See *William F. Bradford's Cavalry, ante.*
**Lee's** (James W.) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 3d Regiment.*
**Lee's** (Stephen D.) **Escort Cavalry.** See *T. M. Nelson's Cavalry, post.*
**Le Fever's** (Benjamin F.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 99th Regiment.*
**Lesslie's** (Joseph P.) **Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**L'Hommedieu's** (Samuel) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 35th Regiment.*
**Lilly's** (Eli) **Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 18th Battery.*
**Locher's** (Michael H.) **Infantry.** See *Pennsylvania Troops, 79th Regiment.*
**Logwood's** (Thomas H.) **Cavalry.** See *F. M. Stewart's Cavalry, post.*
**Lookout Artillery.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Louisiana Eighth Infantry, A. D.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 47th Regiment.*
**Louisiana Tenth Infantry, A. D.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 48th Regiment.*

* Temporarily commanding.

**Louisiana Twelfth Infantry, A. D.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 50th Regiment.*
**Lowe's (Samuel A.) Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Lowry's (Robert) Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 6th Regiment.*
**Lubbers' (John) Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 26th Regiment.*
**Lusk's (William H.) Cavalry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 10th Regiment.*
**Lynch's (William F.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 58th Regiment.*
**Mabry's (Hinchie P.) Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 3d Regiment.*
**McBath's (William R.) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 2d Regiment.*
**McBee's (J. T.) Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 28th Regiment.*
**McClure's (John D.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 47th Regiment.*
**McConnell's (Henry K.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 71st Regiment.*
**McCook's (Anson G.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**McCown's (James) Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 3d and 5th Regiments.*
**McCracken's (William) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 98th Regiment.*
**McCulloch's (Robert) Cavalry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 2d Regiment.*
**McDonald's (Charles) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**McGuirk's (John) Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 3d Regiment (State).*
**McKee's (George C.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 11th Regiment.*
**McLemore's (William S.) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**McLendon's (J. M.) Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops, 14th Battalion, Battery C.*
**McNaughton's (Harlow P) Artillery.** See *Ohio Troops, 7th Battery.*
**Magee's (David W.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 86th Regiment.*
**Matson's (Courtland C.) Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 6th Regiment.*
**Maxwell's (W. L.) Cavalry.** See *John G. Ballentine's Cavalry, ante.*
**May's (Buck) Home Guards.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Buck May.*
**Mead's (L. G.) Guerrillas.** (Official designation not of record.) See *L. G. Mead.*
**Mellon's (T. A.) Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 3d Regiment.*
**Merriam's (Jonathan) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 117th Regiment.*
**Meyers' (Ernest J.) Cavalry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Mihalotzy's (Geza) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 24th Regiment.*
**Miller's (Horace H.) Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Mills' (James K.) Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 24th Regiment.*
**Mims' (David A.) Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 39th Regiment.*
**Minnis' (John B.) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 3d Regiment.*
**Mississippi First Cavalry, A. D.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 3d Regiment.*
**Mitchell's (Greenville M.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 54th Regiment.*
**Montgomery's (Milton) Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 25th Regiment.*
**Mooney's (James) Infantry.** See *Union Troops, Regulars, 19th Regiment, 1st Battalion.*
**Moore's (———) Artillery.** See *Clark Artillery, ante.*
**Moore's (David H.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 125th Regiment.*
**Moore's (Edwin) Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 21st Regiment.*
**Moore's (Franklin) Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Moore's (Jesse H.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 115th Regiment.*
**Moore's (Jonathan B.) Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 33d Regiment.*
**Moore's (Risdon M.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 117th Regiment.*
**Morrison's (Alfred) Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 5th Battery.*
**Morrow's (John C.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 92d Regiment.*
**Morse's (Francis W.) Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 14th Battery.*
**Morton's (John W., jr.) Artillery.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Murray's (Charles D.) Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 89th Regiment.*
**Murray's (Thomas B.) Guerrillas.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Thomas B. Murray.*
**Nale's (John H.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 41st Regiment.*
**Neely's (James J.) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*

**Neff's (Andrew J.) Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 84th Regiment.*
**Nelson's (T. M.) Cavalry.** See *Georgia Troops.*
**Newbold's (Joseph H.) Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 14th Regiment.*
**Newsom's (John F.) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Nolte's (John F.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 14th Regiment.*
**Nottoway Artillery.** See *Virginia Troops.*
**Oliver's (John M.) Infantry.** See *Michigan Troops, 15th Regiment.*
**Oliver's (William S.) Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 7th Regiment.*
**Orleans Light Horse Cavalry.** See *Louisiana Troops.*
**Osband's (Embury D.) Cavalry.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 3d Regiment.*
**Overmyer's (George W.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 81st Regiment.*
**Owens' (James A.) Artillery.** See *Arkansas Troops.*
**Paine's (Nathan) Cavalry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 1st Regiment.*
**Palmer's (William J.) Cavalry.** See *Pennsylvania Troops, 15th Regiment.*
**Palmetto Artillery.** See *South Carolina Troops.*
**Pardee's (Ario, jr.) Infantry.** See *Pennsylvania Troops, 147th Regiment.*
**Park's (J. M.) Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 1st Regiment, Partisan Rangers.*
**Parkell's (Alonzo B.) Cavalry.** See *Iowa Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Patterson's (Josiah) Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 5th Regiment.*
**Patterson's (Michael L.) Infantry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 4th Regiment.*
**Pearson's (Robert N.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 31st Regiment.*
**Peebles' (Ferdinand E.) Infantry.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 47th Regiment.*
**Perkins' (George T.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 105th Regiment.*
**Perkins' (Marland L.) Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops.*
**Peters' (John H.) Cavalry.** See *Iowa Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Peters' (William E.) Cavalry.** See *Virginia Troops, 21st Regiment.*
**Pettus Flying Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Pinson's (R. A.) Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 1st Regiment.*
**Pointe Coupée Artillery.** See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate.*
**Potter's (John) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 53d Regiment.*
**Powell's (Walter H.) Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment, Battery F.*
**Presdee's (Joseph B.) Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Pridemore's (Auburn L.) Infantry.** See *Virginia Troops, 64th Regiment.*
**Prince's (Edward) Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 7th Regiment.*
**Prosser's (William F.) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 2d Regiment.*
**Proudfit's (James K.) Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 12th Regiment.*
**Pugh's (Isaac C.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 41st Regiment.*
**Quin's (Josephus R.) Cavalry.** See *Confederate Troops, Regulars, 14th Regiment.*
**Raffen's (Alexander W.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 19th Regiment.*
**Red's (S. W.) Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Reed's (Joseph R.) Artillery.** See *Iowa Troops, 2d Battery.*
**Reid's (H. J.) Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 22d Regiment.*
**Reynolds' (Arthur E.) Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 26th Regiment.*
**Rheinlander's (John) Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 25th Regiment.*
**Richardson's (Robert V.) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Rigney's (Ferdinand D.) Cavalry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 13th Regiment.*
**Riley's (A. C.) Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 1st and 4th Regiments.*
**Rinaker's (John I.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 122d Regiment.*
**Robbins' (Richard B.) Cavalry.** See *Michigan Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Roberts' (Calvit) Artillery.** See *Seven Stars Artillery, post.*
**Robinson's (James E.) Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 72d Regiment.*
**Roby's (Jacob W.) Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 10th Regiment.*
**Rogers' (George C.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 15th Regiment.*
**Rollins' (W. W.) Infantry.** See *North Carolina Troops, Confederate, 29th Regiment.*
**Ross' (Peter F.) Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 6th Regiment.*

**Rucker's** (E. W.) **Legion.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Rusk's** (Jeremiah M.) **Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 25th Regiment.*
**Russell's** (R. M.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Sanders'** (Addison H.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 16th Regiment.*
**Savage's** (Edward G.) **Cavalry.** See *Pennsylvania Troops, 9th Regiment.*
**Sayers'** (David G.) **Cavalry.** See *Virginia Troops, 34th Battalion.*
**Scott's** (E. A.) **Cavalry.** See *Louisiana Troops, 9th Battalion.*
**Scott's** (John) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 32d Regiment.*
**Scott's** (Thomas M.) **Infantry.** See *Louisiana Troops, 12th Regiment.*
**Seay's** (Abraham J.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 32d Regiment.*
**Seley's** (Abel H.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 5th Regiment.*
**Semple's** (Henry C.) **Artillery.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate.*
**Seven Stars Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Shacklett's** (A. R.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Confederate, 8th Regiment.*
**Shane's** (John) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 13th Regiment.*
**Shanks'** (John P. C.) **Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 7th Regiment.*
**Shedd's** (Warren) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 30th Regiment.*
**Sheets'** (Benjamin F.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 92d Regiment.*
**Sheetz's** (Josiah A.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 8th Regiment.*
**Shelby's** (David) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 97th Regiment.*
**Sherwood's** (Isaac R.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 111th Regiment.*
**Simonson's** (Peter) **Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 5th Battery.*
**Skinner's** (Lucius B.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 6th Regiment.*
**Slack's** (James R.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 47th Regiment.*
**Slemons'** (William F.) **Cavalry.** See *Arkansas Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Slocum's** (Paul E.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 82d Regiment.*
**Smith's** (Baxter) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Smith's** (Benjamin) **Cavalry.** See *Michigan Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Smith's** (Francis A.) **Cavalry.** See *William F. Bradford's Cavalry, ante.*
**Smith's** (Francis M.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 17th Regiment.*
**Smith's** (George W.) **Infantry.** See *Union Troops, 18th Regiment, 1st Battalion.*
**Smith's** (Gustavus F.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 111th Regiment.*
**Smith's** (Henry) **Home Guards.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Henry Smith.*
**Smith's** (John C.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 96th Regiment.*
**Smith's** (William T.) **Heavy Artillery.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 6th Regiment.*
**Snodgrass'** (John) **Infantry.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 55th Regiment.*
**Sparrestrom's** (Frederick) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment, Battery G.*
**Spear's** (Edward, jr.) **Artillery.** See *Ohio Troops, 15th Battery.*
**Stackhouse's** (William P.) **Artillery.** See *Indiana Troops, 19th Battery.*
**Starke's** (Peter B.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 28th Regiment.*
**Starr's** (Mathew H.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 6th Regiment.*
**Stegman's** (Lewis R.) **Infantry.*** See *New York Troops, 60th Regiment.*
**Stephens'** (M. D. L.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 31st Regiment.*
**Stepp's** (Jackson) **Cavalry.** See *Indiana Troops, 6th Regiment.*
**Stewart's Battalion** (Official designation not of record.) See —— *Stewart.*
**Stewart's** (F. M.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Stibbs'** (John H.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 12th Regiment.*
**Stigler's** (James M.) **Sharpshooters.** See *Mississippi Troops, 1st Battalion.*
**Stineback's** (William C.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 82d Regiment.*
**Stockdale's** (Thomas R.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 4th Regiment (Wilbourn's).*
**Stokes'** (William B.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 5th Regiment.*

* Temporarily commanding.

**Street's (Ogden) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 11th Regiment.*
**Strickland's (William T.) Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 52d Regiment.*
**Sudsburg's (Joseph M.) Infantry.** See *Maryland Troops, 3d Regiment.*
**Sullivant's (Lyne S.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 113th Regiment.*
**Swett's (Charles) Artillery.** See *Warren Light Artillery, post.*
**Tanner's (Adolphus H.) Infantry.** See *New York Troops, 123d Regiment.*
**Taylor's (Jacob E.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 40th Regiment.*
**Taylor's (Marsh B.) Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 10th Regiment.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) First Cavalry.** See *James E. Carter's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) First [Seventh] Cavalry.** See *William L. Duckworth's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) Second Cavalry.*** See *H. M. Ashby's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) Second Cavalry.†** See *C. R. Barteau's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee Second Heavy Artillery, A. D.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 4th Regiment.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) Fourth Cavalry.** See *William S. McLemore's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) Fourth [Eighth] Cavalry.** See *Baxter Smith's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) Eighth [Thirteenth] Cavalry.** See *George G. Dibrell's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) Twelfth Cavalry.** See *Robert V. Richardson's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) Fourteenth Cavalry.** See *James J. Neely's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tennessee (Confederate) Fifteenth Cavalry.** See *F. M. Stewart's Cavalry, ante.*
**Thompson's (A. P.) Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Confederate, 3d Regiment.*
**Thompson's (John B.) Cavalry.** See *Virginia Troops, 27th Battalion.*
**Thornburgh's (Jacob M.) Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 4th Regiment.*
**Thrall's (James C.) Artillery.** See *Arkansas Troops.*
**Thurmand's (James G.) Cavalry.** See *James J. Neely's Cavalry, ante.*
**Tiemeyer's (John H.) Artillery.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 1st Regiment, Batteries C and M.*
**Tipton's (Stephen P.) Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, Union, 1st Regiment (Vedette).*
**Tracy's (Albert) Infantry.** See *Union Troops, Regulars, 15th Regiment, 1st Battalion.*
**Trafton's (George W.) Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 7th Regiment.*
**Tripp's (Stephen S.) Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 11th Regiment.*
**Turner's (William D.) Heavy Artillery.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 6th Regiment.*
**Van Antwerp's (William W.) Cavalry.** See *Michigan Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Van Buskirk's (Matthew) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 92d Regiment.*
**Van Horn's (Daniel) Heavy Artillery.** See *Union Troops (Colored), 6th Regiment.*
**Van Horn's (John) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 24th Regiment.*
**Van Vleck's (Carter) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 78th Regiment.*
**Waddell's (James F.) Artillery.** See *Alabama Troops, Confederate, 20th Battalion.*
**Wade's (Alfred B.) Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 73d Regiment.*
**Walsh's (Richard C.) Artillery.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate.*
**Ward's (Edward W.) Cavalry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 3d Regiment.*
**Warner's (Philip H.) Cavalry.** See *Ohio Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Warren Light Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops.*
**Waters' (Louis H.) Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 84th Regiment.*
**Waties' (John) Artillery.** See *Palmetto Artillery, ante, Battery B.*
**Watts' (Elijah S.) Cavalry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 2d Regiment.*
**Waul's (T. N.) Legion, Infantry.** See *Texas Troops.*
**Webb's (Junius Y.) Cavalry.** See *Louisiana Troops.*
**Wehler's (Edward) Infantry.** See *New York Troops, 178th Regiment.*
**Welles' (George E.) Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 68th Regiment.*

---

* With Wheeler's command.
† With Forrest's command.

**Wharton's** (Jack) **Cavalry.** See *Texas Troops, 6th Regiment.*
**Wheeler's** (William W.) **Infantry.** See *Michigan Troops, 23d Regiment.*
**Whitecotton's** (Peter) **Company.** (Official designation not of record.) See *Peter Whitecotton.*
**Wilbourn's** (C. C.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Wiles'** (Greenberry F.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 78th Regiment.*
**Willis'** (Leonidas) **Cavalry.** See *T. N. Waul's Legion, ante.*
**Willison's** (Asias) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 103d Regiment.*
**Wilson's** (A. N.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
**Winslow's** (Edward F.) **Cavalry.** See *Iowa Troops, 4th Regiment.*
**Wisdom's** (D. M.) **Cavalry.** See *Jeffrey E. Forrest's Cavalry, ante.*
**Witherspoon's Company.** (Official designation not of record.) See ——— *Witherspoon.*
**Wood's** (Richard B.) **Cavalry.*** See *Ohio Troops, 1st, 3d, and 4th Regiments.*
**Wood's** (Robert C., jr.) **Cavalry.** See *Wirt Adams' Cavalry, ante.*
**Wood's** (William) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 98th Regiment.*
**Woolly's** (George W.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 102d Regiment.*
**Wooster's** (William B.) **Infantry.** See *Connecticut Troops, 20th Regiment.*
**Yorke's** (P. Jones) **Cavalry.** See *New Jersey Troops, 2d Regiment.*
**Young's** (William H.) **Infantry.** See *Texas Troops, 9th Regiment.*

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* Temporarily commanding detachments.

# INDEX.

Brigades, Divisions, Corps, Armies, and improvised organizations are "Mentioned" under name of commanding officer; State and other organizations under their official designation. (See Alternate Designations, pp. 705–714.)


Page.

**Abbott, Charles H.** Mentioned ..... 429, 430
**Abeel, Alfred.** Mentioned ..... 109
**Abel, Mollie,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 572
**Aberdeen, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 18, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Burgh, Henry B. Hepburn, William P. Smith, William Sooy.
Heinrichs, Gustav.
**Abernathy, James R.** Mentioned ..... 438
**Ackerstrom, John C.** Mentioned ..... 522, 530, 533, 564
**Acox, Cleaveland.** Mentioned ..... 235
**Adam, Emil.** Mentioned ..... 118, 119
**Adams, C.** Mentioned ..... 385
**Adams, John.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Adams, Samuel R.** Mentioned ..... 229
**Adams, S. F.** Mentioned ..... 413
**Adams, Silas.** Mentioned ..... 50, 54, 91, 138
**Adams, William S.** Mentioned ..... 687
**Adams, Wirt.**
Correspondence with Leonidas Polk ..... 676
Mentioned ..... 174, 211, 221, 227, 333, 357, 360–363, 365, 366, 368–371, 375, 380, 619, 674, 675
Reports of
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 371
Natchez, Miss. Operations near, Jan. 24, 1864 ..... 126
Yazoo River, Miss. Expedition up the, April 19–23, 1864, with skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel ..... 675, 676
**Addison, Sandy.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 534
**Adjutant-General's Office, U. S. A.** Correspondence with
Brayman, Mason ..... 507
Sherman, William T ..... 260
**Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, C. S. A.** Correspondence with
Bragg, Braxton ..... 347
Polk, Leonidas ..... 608, 675
Quartermaster-General's Office, C. S. A ..... 94
**Aken, William S.** Report of skirmish at Langley's Plantation, Issaquena County, Miss., March 22, 1864 ..... 627
**Akin, James H.** Mentioned ..... 333, 372, 373
**Alabama.** Operations in. See Summary, pp. 1–6.

Page.
**Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, Department of.**
Command of Leonidas Polk designated as ..... 2
Orders, Circular, series 1864: **March 11** (*Forrest*), 356.
Orders, General, series 1864: **No. 22**, 345.
Orders, Special, series 1864: **No. 63**, 356.
Organization, strength, etc., Feb. 20, 1864 ..... 332–334
**Alabama, North.** See *North Alabama.*
**Alabama Troops.** Mentioned. (Confederate.)
Artillery, Light—*Battalions:* **20th**, 484. *Batteries:* **Barbour**, 478; **Charpentier's**, 332; **Semple's**, 483.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 333, 378; **5th**, 119, 685; **6th**, 333; **53d**, 119; **56th**, 333. **J. E. Forrest's**, 355, 576, 621.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **9th**, 248; **16th**, 685; **18th**, 479; **23d**, 482; **27th**, 333, 626, 627, 662; **30th**, 482, 483; **31st**, 482; **32d**, 479; **35th**, 333, 626, 662, 663; **36th**, 479; **37th**, 481; **38th**, 479; **40th**, **42d**, 481; **46th**, 482; **54th**, **55th**, 333; **58th**, 479.
**Alabama Troops.** Mentioned. (Union.)
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **1st**, 129, 197, 289, 507, 644, 663; **1st** (*Vedette*),* 97, 99, 100, 129, 393, 486.
**Alexander, A.** Mentioned ..... 537, 566
**Alger, Amos B.** Mentioned ..... 58
**Allcorn, Bill.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Allen Collier**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 178, 183
**Allen, R. C.** Mentioned ..... 287
**Allen, Samuel.** Mentioned ..... 622
**Allen, William W.** Mentioned ..... 688, 692
**Allison, Joseph F.** Mentioned ..... 247
**Allison, Rolland H.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Almon, Harry.** Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 231
**Ammen, Jacob.**
Itinerary of 4th Division, 23d Army Corps, April, 1864 ..... 53
Mentioned ..... 53
**Anderson, ———.** Mentioned ..... 677
**Anderson, Charles W.**
Correspondence with Nathan B. Forrest ..... 598
Mentioned ..... 355, 565, 592, 595, 597, 615, 616, 618
For correspondence as Aide-de-Camp, see *Nathan B. Forrest.*
**Anderson, Edward L.** Mentioned ..... 461
**Anderson, Joseph M.** Report of expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to Waterproof, La., and skirmishes, Jan. 29–Feb. 23, 1864 ..... 157
**Anderson, Nathan.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Anderson, Nicholas L.** Mentioned ..... 656, 657
**Anderson, Ransom.** Testimony of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 519
**Anderson, William B.** Mentioned ..... 420, 459, 460
**Anderson, William G.** Mentioned ..... 145
**Anderson, William P.** Report of skirmish at Ragland Mills, Bath County, Ky., Jan. 13, 1864 ..... 71
**Arkansas Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **Helena**, 483; **Owens'**, 379; **Thrall's**, 382, 383.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 334.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **9th**, 333; **11th**, 333, 373.

* More properly 1st Alabama and Tennessee.

Page.

**Armies of the United States.**
Grant, U. S., assigned to the command of ..... 4
Halleck, Henry W., assigned as Chief of Staff ..... 4
**Arms, Ammunition, etc.** See *Munitions of War.*
**Armstrong, Frank C.** Mentioned ..... 20, 34, 44, 68, 107, 131, 132, 134–136, 139, 140, 143, 150, 161, 671, 687
**Armstrong's Ferry, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Strawberry Plains and Armstrong's Ferry, Tenn. Skirmishes at, Jan.* 21–22, 1864.
**Army Corps, 4th.**
Granger, Gordon, relieved from command of ..... 5
Howard, Oliver O., assigned to command of ..... 5
Itineraries.
Jan., 1864 ..... 22
Feb., 1864 ..... 23
March, 1864 ..... 24
April, 1864 ..... 24
**Army Corps, 9th.**
Itineraries.
Jan., 1864 ..... 48
Feb., 1864 ..... 48
March, 1864 ..... 49
Ordered to Annapolis, Md ..... 4
Parke, John G., resumes command of ..... 2
Potter, Robert B., relieved from command of ..... 2
Willcox, Orlando B.
Assigned to command of ..... 2
Resumes command of ..... 4
**Army Corps, 11th.**
Consolidated with 12th, to form the 20th Army Corps ..... 5
Howard, Oliver O., resumes command of ..... 3
Itineraries.
Jan., 1864 ..... 24
Feb., 1864 ..... 25
March, 1864 ..... 26
Schurz, Carl, temporarily in command of ..... 2
**Army Corps, 12th.**
Consolidated with 11th, to form the 20th Army Corps ..... 5
Itineraries.
Jan., 1864 ..... 26
Feb., 1864 ..... 27
March, 1864 ..... 28
**Army Corps, 14th.** Itineraries.
Jan., 1864 ..... 29
Feb., 1864 ..... 30
March, 1864 ..... 30
April, 1864 ..... 31
**Army Corps, 16th.**
Hurlbut, Stephen A., relieved from command of ..... 6
Itineraries.
Grierson, Benjamin H. (Cavalry Division), Feb. and March, 1864. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc ..... 261
Hess, Joseph C. (19th Pennsylvania Cavalry), Jan. 22–Feb. 8, 1864. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc ..... 286
Howe, James H. (2d Brigade, 4th Division). Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 207

Page.

**Army Corps, 16th**—Continued.
Itineraries.
Hurlbut, Stephen A. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 195
McMillen, William L. (1st Brigade, 1st Division).
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 198
Ripley, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April 30–May 9, 1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn ... 703
Moore, David (1st Brigade, 3d Division). Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 200
Shaw, William T. (2d Brigade, 3d Division). Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 200
Tuttle, James M. (1st Division). Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 196
Waring, George E., jr. (1st Brigade, Cavalry Division). Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to Ripley, Miss., April 30–May 9,1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn ... 701

**Army Corps, 17th.**
Blair, Frank P., jr., assigned to command of ... 6
Itineraries.
Leggett, Mortimer D. (3d Division). Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 226
McPherson, James B. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 213
Maltby, Jasper A. (3d Brigade, 3d Division). Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to Sunnyside Landing, Ark., Jan. 10–16, 1864 ... 69
Scofield, Hiram (2d Brigade, 1st Division, U. S. C. T.). Expedition up the Yazoo River, Miss., April 19–23, 1864, with skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel ... 674
Shepard, Isaac F. (1st Brigade, 1st Division). Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 332

**Army Corps, 20th.**
Army Corps, 11th and 12th, consolidated to form ... 5
Hooker, Joseph, assigned to command of ... 5
Itinerary, April, 1864 ... 32

**Army Corps, 23d.**
Cox, Jacob D.
Assigned to command of ... 5
Relieved from command of ... 3
Itineraries.
Jan., 1864 ... 49
Feb., 1864 ... 51
March, 1864 ... 52
April, 1864 ... 53
Schofield, John M.
Assigned to command of ... 5
Assumes command of ... 5
Stoneman, George.
Assigned to command of ... 2
Assumes command of ... 3

**Army Headquarters.** Correspondence with U. S. Grant ... 131
**Army Transportation.** See *Munitions of War.*
Arnold, ———. Mentioned ... 164
**Arwine, Nicholas J.** Mentioned ... 466

Page.
**Ashford, Frederick A.** Mentioned ..... 685
**Ashley, Romanzo J.** Mentioned ..... 244, 245
**Athens, Ala.** Scout from, March 30, 1864. Report of Grenville M. Dodge ... 654
**Atkins, Smith D.**
Correspondence with
Helm, Clinton ..... 682
Hine, Robert J ..... 681
Murray, Eli H ..... 680
Strock, John L ..... 681
Winston, Thomas ..... 684
Itinerary of 3d Brigade, 2d Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, Jan., 1864 ..... 36
Mentioned ..... 35, 36, 121, 124
Report of operations in North Alabama, Jan. 23–29, 1864 ..... 123
**Audenried, Joseph C.** Mentioned ..... 179
**Austin, J. E.** Mentioned ..... 480
**Autocrat, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 398
**Auxer, James B.** Mentioned ..... 668
**Auxier, John B.** Mentioned ..... 648
**Ayers, Henry.** Mentioned ..... 446–448
**Ayres, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 452
**Babcock, Paul, jr.**
Correspondence with Charles R. Case ..... 448, 449, 451
Mentioned ..... 461
**Bain, G. J.** Mentioned ..... 668
**Bainbridge [?], ———.** Mentioned ..... 542
**Baird, Absalom.**
Correspondence with Eli H. Murray ..... 681
Mentioned ..... 9–11, 14, 30, 420, 421, 425, 433, 439, 443, 444, 447, 448, 450, 456, 458, 462, 463, 490, 688
Reports of
Leet's Tan-yard, Ga. Skirmish at, March 5, 1864 ..... 488, 489
Nickajack Gap, Ga. Skirmish near, March 9, 1864 ..... 493
Nickajack Trace, Ga. Attack on Union pickets at, April 23, 1864 ..... 678
Tunnel Hill, Ga. Reconnaissance from Ringgold toward, April 29, 1864 690
**Baker, Alpheus.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Baker, Asa D.** Mentioned ..... 21
**Baker, Benjamin B.** Mentioned ..... 634
**Baker, Hendrick D.** Mentioned ..... 624
**Baker, Myron.** Mentioned ..... 421
**Baker's Creek, Miss.** Skirmish on, Feb. 5, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Adams, Wirt. Howe, John H. McPherson, James B.
**Baldwin, William E.** Mentioned ..... 334, 477
**Baldwin's Ferry, Big Black River, Miss.** Scout to, Jan. 14, 1864. Report of James Ketner ..... 77
**Ball, Oliver B.** Mentioned ..... 149
**Ballentine, John G.** Mentioned ..... 333, 377
**Bandy, Jacob F.** Mentioned ..... 291
**Banks, Nathaniel P.** Mentioned ..... 173, 174, 176, 177, 181, 184, 403
**Bannister, Prentis S.** Mentioned ..... 436
**Barber, Lieutenant.** Mentioned ..... 297
**Barboursville, Ky.** Skirmish at, Feb. 8, 1864* ..... 3

*No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
Barksdale, James A. Mentioned ..... 258, 341, 351, 353, 355
Barnes, ———. Mentioned ..... 651
Barnes, Allen T. Mentioned ..... 430
Barnes, George F. Mentioned ..... 548
Barnes, Sidney M. Mentioned ..... 23, 24
Barnet, Miss. Mentioned ..... 103, 104
Barnum, William L. Mentioned ..... 168
Barr, John C. Mentioned ..... 528, 535, 559
Barry, Robert L. Mentioned ..... 332
Barry, Robert P. Mentioned ..... 419
Barteau, C. R. Mentioned ..... 258, 351–353, 355, 584, 597
Bartrum, William H. Mentioned ..... 395
Basleton, William A. Mentioned ..... 639
Bassford, Stephen A. Mentioned ..... 419, 453
Batchelder, John. Mentioned ..... 461
Bate, William B. Mentioned ..... 476
Bates, J. C. Mentioned ..... 671
Batty, William C. Mentioned ..... 635
Baty, David. Mentioned ..... 55
Bayse, John W. Mentioned ..... 206
Baysinger, Alexander. Mentioned ..... 682
Beach, John N. Mentioned ..... 430
Beardsley, Ambrose E. Mentioned ..... 500
Beatty, John. Mentioned ..... 31
Beatty, John W.
Mentioned ..... 69
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 542
Beatty, Samuel.
Mentioned ..... 161
Report of reconnaissance from Maryville toward Sevierville, Tenn., Feb. 1–2, 1864 ..... 160
Beaver, Forks of. See *Forks of Beaver.*
Beck, Christian. Mentioned ..... 275, 276, 583
Beck, Moses M. Mentioned ..... 146
Beck, William A. Mentioned ..... 157
Becker, Egbert T. C. Mentioned ..... 123
Beebe, Yates V. Mentioned ..... 36
Beeres, Charles H. Mentioned ..... 57–59
Beersheba Springs, Tenn.
Skirmish at, March 19, 1864* ..... 4
Skirmish near. See *Sparta, Tenn. Operations about, including skirmishes on Calfkiller Creek and near Beersheba Springs, March 11–28, 1864.*
Beery, William. Mentioned ..... 393
Beighell, David E. Mentioned ..... 89
Belknap, William W.
Mentioned ..... 170
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 224
Bell, Colonel. Mentioned ..... 552
Bell, Molyneux. Mentioned ..... 58
Bell, Tyree H. Mentioned ..... 342, 349, 352, 353, 355, 543, 609, 610, 613, 615, 616, 619–623
Bell, William B. Mentioned ..... 169
Belsinger, Christopher. Mentioned ..... 157

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Bend of Chucky Road, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, etc., Jan.* 16–17, 1864.
**Benham, ———.** Mentioned ..... 98, 101
**Bennett, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 110
**Bennett, John E.**
Mentioned ..... 23, 24, 419, 422, 432–434
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 435
**Bent Creek, Tenn.** Skirmish at, March 14, 1864* ..... 4
**Benteen, Frederick W.** Mentioned ..... 171, 249, 251
**Benton, Coleman D.** Mentioned ..... 419, 422
**Berry, Benjamin C.** Mentioned ..... 287
**Berry, T. G.** Mentioned ..... 389
**Berry County, Tenn.** Skirmish in, April 29, 1864* ..... 6
**Bevel, Elois.** Deposition of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 520
**Biggs, Jonathan.** Mentioned ..... 119
**Big Springs, near Tazewell, Tenn.** Skirmish at, Jan. 19, 1864. Reports of
Longstreet, James ..... 97
Pennebaker, Charles D ..... 94
Stepp, Jackson ..... 95
**Bingham, George B.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Bingham, James R.** Deposition of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 520
**Bingham, Judson D.** Mentioned ..... 179
**Bischoff, Peter.** Mentioned ..... 537, 538, 566, 567, 569, 570
**Bishop, Edgar B.** Mentioned ..... 466
**Bishop, Linus D.** Mentioned ..... 77, 290, 297
**Bishop, William W.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Black, Chauncey.** Mentioned ..... 214, 215, 218
**Blackburn, Joseph H.** Mentioned ..... 55, 162, 494
**Blackburn, Thomas J.** Mentioned ..... 170
**Blackburn, William C.** Mentioned ..... 291, 294
**Blackman, Luther M.** Mentioned ..... 314
**Blair, Frank P., jr.** Assignment to command ..... 6
**Bledsoe, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 495
**Bledsoe, Willis S.**
Correspondence with Theodore Jepson ..... 98
Mentioned ..... 7, 16, 55, 65, 416
**Blodgett, James H.** Mentioned ..... 436
**Boiling Springs, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Waterhouse's Mill and Boiling Springs, Tenn., Skirmishes at, April* 19–20, 1864.
**Bolen, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 495
**Bolivar, Tenn.**
Affair at, Feb. 6, 1864* ..... 3
Skirmish at, May 2, 1864. See *Ripley, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April* 30–*May* 9, 1864, *and skirmish (May* 2) *at Bolivar, Tenn.*
Skirmish near, March 29, 1864. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March* 16–*April* 14, 1864. *Reports of*



* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Bolton Depot, Miss.** Skirmish near, Feb. 4, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Reports of*

Adams, Wirt. Lee, Stephen D. Winslow, Edward F.
Harvey, Addison.

**Bond, Emery S.** Mentioned ..... 50, 54, 91, 138

**Bond, John R.** Report of expedition from Knoxville to Flat Creek, Tenn., Feb. 1, 1864 ..... 159

**Boone, J. Rowan.** Mentioned ..... 36, 37, 109

**Boone, William P.**

Mentioned ..... 11, 15, 421, 450, 457

Report of scout from Rossville toward Dalton, Ga., and skirmish (22d), Jan. 21–23, 1864 ..... 109

**Booneville, Ky.** Affair near, April 14, 1864. See *Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March* 28–*April* 16, 1864. *Report of Hobson*, p. 646; *itinerary of U. S. forces*, p. 648.

**Booth, D. W.** Mentioned ..... 368

**Booth, Lionel F.**

Correspondence with

Forrest, Nathan B ..... 560, 561, 594, 596, 597

Hurlbut, Stephen A ..... 556

Mentioned ..... 520, 521, 528, 534, 535, 538, 539, 554, 555, 559, 560, 564, 566, 568–570, 589, 609, 614

**Booth, Louis S.** Mentioned ..... 305

**Borough Josiah.** Mentioned ..... 552

**Boswell & Willett, Messrs.** Mentioned ..... 628

**Bouanchaud, Alcide.** Mentioned ..... 333

**Bowie, A. T.** Mentioned ..... 374

**Bowlsby, James H.** Mentioned ..... 244

**Bowman, Lieutenant.** Mentioned ..... 494

**Bowman, Charles S.** Mentioned ..... 172, 259, 304, 305

**Bowman, Eli.** Mentioned ..... 157, 158

**Bowser, Samuel.** Mentioned ..... 639

**Boyd, ———.** Mentioned ..... 68

**Boyd, Emma, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 317, 318, 320

**Boyles, William.** Mentioned ..... 333

**Brackett, Albert G.** Report of scout from Collierville, Tenn., Jan. 14, 1864 .. 77

**Bradford, ———.** Mentioned ..... 492, 623, 624

**Bradford, Robert Y.** Mentioned ..... 495, 543

**Bradford, Theodore F.** Mentioned ..... 520, 521, 560, 564, 569, 570

**Bradford, William F.**

Killing of. Affidavit of W. R. McLagan ..... 557

Mentioned ..... 521, 528, 535, 538, 539, 554, 556, 557, 559, 562, 564–570, 589, 592, 602, 612

**Bradley, Daniel.**

Mentioned ..... 170, 229

Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 230

**Bradshaw, J. H.** Mentioned ..... 648

**Bragg, Braxton.**

Charged with the conduct of military operations in the armies of the Confederacy ..... 3

Correspondence with Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, C. S. A ..... 347

Mentioned ..... 592, 613

**Bramlette, Thomas E.** Mentioned ..... 46

**Brandon, Amos H.** Mentioned ..... 162

Page.

**Brandon, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 7, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*

Jackson, William H. Rose, Lucius M. Winslow, Edward F.
McPherson, James B.

**Brayman, Mason.**
Correspondence with
Adjutant-General's Office, U. S. A ..... 507
Hicks, Stephen G ..... 550
Hurlbut, Stephen A ..... 504, 506, 517, 551
McPherson, James B ..... 515
Prince, Henry ..... 517, 518
War Department, U. S ..... 518, 534
Mentioned ..... 502, 544, 553, 554, 572, 574–576, 581
Reports of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 502, 504, 507, 508

**Breckinridge, John C.**
Assignment to command ..... 4
Mentioned ..... 15, 429, 478, 481, 650

**Brent, George William.** Mentioned ..... 617, 618

**Brewer, ———.** Mentioned ..... 7

**Brewster, Joseph W.**
Correspondence with John McArthur ..... 320
Mentioned ..... 325

**Briant, Cyrus E.** Mentioned ..... 419, 453, 454

**Bridgeport, Ala.**
List of military storehouses constructed at ..... 20
Reconnaissance from. See *Triana, Ala. Reconnaissance from Bridgeport down the Tennessee River to vicinity of, April 12–16, 1864.*
Scout from. See *Caperton's Ferry, Ala., and vicinity. Scout from Bridgeport to, March 31–April 2, 1864.*

**Bridges, H. W.** Mentioned ..... 357, 368, 372

**Briggs, George H.** Mentioned ..... 444

**Britton, Martin T.** Mentioned ..... 668

**Brooks, Blueford E.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 640

**Brown, Daniel H.** Mentioned ..... 51

**Brown, F.** Mentioned ..... 641

**Brown, George R.** Mentioned ..... 169

**Brown, John C.** Correspondence with J. W. Collier ..... 394

**Brown, John M.**
Mentioned ..... 71
Report of skirmish on Troublesome Creek, Ky., April 27, 1864 ..... 687

**Brown, Joseph E.** Mentioned ..... 477

**Brown, Oliver L. F.** Mentioned ..... 659, 660

**Brown, Orlando, jr.** Mentioned ..... 645, 649

**Brown, William N.** Mentioned ..... 332

**Browne, Thomas M.** Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 274

**Brownlow, James P.**
Mentioned ..... 82, 136, 143, 161
Report of reconnaissance from Maryville toward Sevierville, Tenn., Feb. 1–2, 1864 ..... 161

**Brown's Ferry, Ala.** Operations about, Feb. 19, 1864. Reports of Grenville M. Dodge ..... 408, 409

Page.

**Brownsville, Miss.**
Skirmish at, March 3, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864.* See *report of Starke*, p. 377.
Skirmishes at, March 7–8, 1864* ..... 4
**Broyles, James.** Mentioned ..... 496, 497
**Brumback, Jefferson.** Mentioned ..... 168, 581
**Bryant, Aaron.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 640
**Bryant, B.** Mentioned ..... 64
**Buchanan, Franklin.** Mentioned ..... 402
**Buck, ———.**
Correspondence with Stephen D. Lee ..... 359
Mentioned ..... 359
**Buckellew, Jasper P.** Mentioned ..... 491
**Buckland, Ralph P.** Mentioned ..... 196, 197, 289
**Buckley, Daniel.** Mentioned ..... 243
**Buckner, Simon B.**
Assignments to command ..... 4, 5
Mentioned ..... 93, 496
**Buford, Abraham.**
Correspondence with
Hicks, Stephen G ..... 549, 550
Lawrence, William Hudson ..... 553
Mentioned ..... 333, 546, 548, 549, 553, 574, 586, 588, 607, 609–611
**Bull's Gap, Tenn.**
Expedition from, April 25, 1864. See *Watauga River, Tenn. Expedition from Bull's Gap to, April 25–27, 1864.*
Reconnaissance toward, April 2–4, 1864. See *Rogersville and Bull's Gap, Tenn. Reconnaissances from Powder Springs Gap toward, April 2–4, 1864.*
Skirmish at, March 15, 1864* ..... 4
**Burbridge, Stephen G.**
Congratulatory Orders. Skirmish at Laurel Creek, Wayne County, W. Va., Feb. 15, 1864 ..... 395
Mentioned ..... 394, 395
**Burgh, Henry B.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 258, 290–294
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 297
**Burke's and Ellidge's Mills, Ga.** Scout from Ooltewah, Tenn., to, Feb. 18–19, 1864. Reports of
Harris, William C ..... 407
Van Antwerp, William W ..... 408
**Burkesville, Ky.** Expedition from. See *Obey's River, Tenn. Expedition from Burkesville, Ky., to, April 18–20, 1864.*
**Burks, C. E.** Mentioned ..... 413, 414
**Burnett, Henry L.** Mentioned ..... 638
**Burnett, Henry S.** Mentioned ..... 420, 460
**Burnside, Ambrose E.** Mentioned ..... 44, 46, 48
**Burton, N. B.** Mentioned ..... 622
**Buschbeck, Adolphus.**
Itineraries of 2d Division, 11th Army Corps, Jan.–Feb., 1864 ..... 24, 25
Mentioned ..... 24, 25, 32
Report of reconnaissance from Lookout Valley, Tenn., to McLemore's Cove, Ga., March 30–April 1, 1864 ..... 654

*No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Bush, Henry M.** Mentioned ..... 215, 217
**Bushy Creek, Ky.** Skirmish on, April 7, 1864. See *Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March 28–April 16, 1864. Itinerary of U. S. forces*, p. 648.
**Buswell, Nicholas C.** Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 467
**Butler, David W.** Mentioned ..... 684
**Butler, Thomas H.** Mentioned ..... 92, 93, 132, 137, 148
**Butterfield, Daniel.** Mentioned ..... 32, 251
**Buzzard Roost, Ga.** Skirmish at. See *Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, and Rocky Face Ridge (or Crow's Valley). Skirmishes at, Feb. 24–25, 1864.*
**Byhalia, Miss.** Affair near. See *Raiford's Plantation, Miss., near Byhalia Affair at, Feb. 11, 1864.*
**Byrd, Robert K.**
Mentioned ..... 485
Report of capture of Washington, Tenn., Feb. 26, 1864 ..... 485
**Cain, David.** Mentioned ..... 674
**Caine, John S.** Mentioned ..... 475
**Caldwell, Columbus.** Mentioned ..... 669
**Caldwell, James M.** Mentioned ..... 261
**Calfkiller Creek, Tenn.** Skirmishes on.
Feb. 22, 1864. Report of William B. Stokes ..... 416
March 11, 1864. See *Sparta, Tenn. Operations about, including skirmishes on Calfkiller Creek and near Beersheba Springs, March 11–28, 1864.*
**Cameron, Daniel.** Mentioned ..... 52, 53, 85
**Camp, ———.** Mentioned ..... 396
**Camp, John L.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Campbell, Lieutenant.** Mentioned ..... 70
**Campbell, Archibald P.**
Mentioned ..... 14, 34, 37–39, 81, 82, 84, 87, 90, 132–141, 144, 146, 147
Reports of Dandridge, Tenn.
Operations about, including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 85
Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 142
**Campbell, James B.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Campbell, William B.** Mentioned ..... 156
**Candy, Charles.**
Mentioned ..... 29, 32
Report of scout from Bridgeport, Ala., to Caperton's Ferry and vicinity, March 31–April 2, 1864 ..... 655
**Cantey, James.** Mentioned ..... 402
**Canton, Miss.**
Skirmishes at.
Feb. 24, 1864* ..... 165
March 2, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of Adams*, p. 374; *Starke*, p. 377.
Skirmishes near.
Feb. 26, 1864* ..... 165
Feb. 29, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*

Adams, Wirt. Howe, John H. Rose, Lucius M.
Bradley, Daniel. Jackson, William H. Starke, Peter B.
Force, Manning F. McPherson, James B.

**Cantrell, J. C.** Mentioned ..... 102

*No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Cantrell, T. J.** Mentioned ..... 102
**Caperton, Adam.** Mentioned ..... 659, 660
**Caperton, Hugh.** Mentioned ..... 659, 660
**Caperton, John E.** Mentioned ..... 659
**Caperton, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 659
**Caperton's Ferry, Ala.**
Affair at, March 29, 1864. Reports of David Ireland ..... 651
Scouts to, March 28, 1864. Report of James S. Robinson ..... 644
**Caperton's Ferry, Ala., and vicinity.** Scouts from
Bridgeport to, March 31–April 2, 1864. Report of Charles Candy ..... 655
Stevenson to, April 11, 1864. Report of Lewis R. Stegman ..... 659
**Capron, Albert B.** Mentioned ..... 147, 148
**Capron, Horace, jr.** Mentioned ..... 138
**Card, Warren D.** Mentioned ..... 244
**Carey, Oliver H. P.**
Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 432, 434
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 440
**Carlin, William P.**
Mentioned ..... 9, 419, 451, 452
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 453
**Carr, Henry M.**
Mentioned ..... 172, 304, 305, 312
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 308
**Carrick, Anthony L.** Mentioned ..... 91
**Carson, Delos.** Mentioned ..... 536, 569, 570
**Carter, Joe.** Mentioned ..... 7, 65, 97, 416, 495
**Carter, Joseph.** Mentioned ..... 643
**Carter, Samuel P.** Mentioned ..... 71
**Case, Charles R.**
Correspondence with
Babcock, Paul, jr. ..... 448, 449, 451
Hollopeter, John L. ..... 448
Mentioned ..... 461
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 446
**Casey, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 153
**Cason, Hardin.** Testimony of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 522
**Cassell, Henry C.** Mentioned ..... 309
**Castanach, William.** Mentioned ..... 682–684
**Casualties in Action.** See *Confederate Troops* and *Union Troops.*
**Catlin, James K.** Mentioned ..... 194, 261
**Catoosa Platform, Ga.** Skirmish near. See *Stone Church, near Catoosa Platform, Ga. Skirmish at the, Feb.* 27, 1864.
**Catoosa Station, Ga.** Skirmish at. See *Dalton, Ga. Skirmishes near, and at Catoosa Station and Tunnel Hill, Feb.* 23, 1864.
**Caudill, D. J.** Mentioned ..... 64
**Cavalry Corps, Army of Tennessee.** (Confederate.) Itineraries of Joseph Wheeler.
Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 484
Leet's Tan-yard, Ga. Skirmish at, March 5, 1864 ..... 490
**Cavalry Corps, Army of the Cumberland.** Itineraries.
Jan., 1864 ..... 33
Feb., 1864 ..... 36
March, 1864 ..... 38
April, 1864 ..... 39

Page.

**Cavalry Corps, Army of the Ohio.**
Itinerary, Jan., 1864 ..... 54
Stoneman, George, assigned to command of ..... 5
**Chaffee, Clemens C.** Mentioned ..... 159
**Chalmers, Alexander H.** Mentioned ..... 334, 621
**Chalmers, James R.**
Congratulatory address of, to officers and men of his command ..... 622
Mentioned ..... 198, 199, 259, 303, 334, 349, 352, 353, 520, 521, 527, 532, 558, 562, 565, 569, 583, 585, 592, 598, 602, 609, 610, 612–616, 619, 676
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 620
**Chamberlayn, F. C.** Mentioned ..... 413
**Chambers, Alexander.**
Mentioned ..... 170, 172, 192, 209–213, 215, 218–221, 223, 234
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 223
**Champion, Thomas E.**
Mentioned ..... 419, 422–427, 433, 436, 474
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 430
**Champion's Hill, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 4, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*

Adams, Wirt. Hall, Cyrus. McPherson, James B.
Crocker, Marcellus M. Jackson, William H. Rose, Lucius M.
Gresham, Walter Q. Lee, Stephen D.

**Chapin, Marshal W.**
Mentioned ..... 49, 159
Report of skirmish near Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 27, 1864 ..... 150
**Chapman, Augustus H.** Mentioned ..... 634
**Chapman, James F.**
Mentioned ..... 548
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 551
**Chapman, Joseph S.** Mentioned ..... 154
**Charleston, Coles County, Ill.** Riot at, March 28, 1864.
Casualties. List of ..... 634
Communications from
Lincoln, Abraham ..... 643
McNutt, George ..... 642
Mitchell, Greenville M ..... 633
Montgomery, David L ..... 630
War Department, U. S ..... 643
Reports of
Heintzelman, Samuel P ..... 629
Hosmer, Addison A ..... 635
Oakes, James ..... 630
White, Julius ..... 629
Summary of evidence in cases of
Brooks, Blueford E ..... 640
Bryant, Aaron ..... 640
Collins, George J ..... 639
Galbreath, John ..... 640
Hardwicke, William P ..... 642
Herndon, John W ..... 641
Murphy, John W ..... 641
Murphy, Michael ..... 646

Page.

**Charleston, Coles County, Ill.** Riot at, March 28, 1864—Continued.
Summary of evidence in cases of
Reardon, Benjamin F ..... 639
Reardon, George W ..... 639
Redmon, John F ..... 639
Reynolds, John ..... 641
Shelborne, Miner ..... 642
Taylor, John T ..... 641
Thornhill, Bryant ..... 638
**Charpentier, Stephen.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Chase, Frank M.** Mentioned ..... 682
**Chattanooga,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 21
**Chattanooga, Tenn.**
List of military storehouses constructed at ..... 21
Scout from. See *Harrison and Ooltewah, Tenn. Scout from Chattanooga to, Jan.* 21, 1864.
**Cheatham, Benjamin F.** Mentioned ..... 9, 15, 334
**Cheek,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 573
**Cheek, Christopher T.**
Mentioned ..... 172, 304, 305, 308
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 309
**Cheek's Cross-Roads, Tenn.** Skirmish at, March 13, 1864* ..... 4
**Chickamauga,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 18, 21, 32, 663
**Chickamauga Creek, Ga.** Skirmish at, Jan. 30, 1864* ..... 3
**Choteau, H.,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 201, 205, 206
**Chunky Creek and Meridian, Miss.** Skirmishes between, Feb. 13–14, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Reports of*
Almon, Harry. Bradley, Daniel. Duer, John O. Force, Manning F. Howe, John H. McPherson, James B. Starke, Peter B.
See also *itinerary of 3d Div., 17th Army Corps*, p. 226.
**Cladek, John J.** Mentioned ..... 575
**Claiborne, James R.** Report of action at Jonesville, Va., Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 62
**Clancy, Charles W.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Clanton, James H.**
Mentioned ..... 625, 665, 685, 687
Report of skirmish at Woodall's Bridge, Ala., April 7, 1864 ..... 657
**Clark, Alonzo.** Mentioned ..... 251
**Clark, Charles.** Mentioned ..... 350, 365
**Clark, E. H.** Mentioned ..... 480
**Clark, John.** Mentioned ..... 364
**Clark, Lewis M.** Mentioned ..... 687
**Clark's Ferry, Tenn.** Scout from near Dandridge to, Jan. 10–11, 1864. Report of William J. Palmer ..... 68
**Clary, James L.** Mentioned ..... 101
**Clay, Ezekiel F.** Mentioned ..... 54, 645, 647–650
**Clay, H. L.** For correspondence as A. A. G., see *Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, C. S. A.*
**Claysville, Ala.** Skirmish at, March 14, 1864. Reports of
House, William T ..... 498
Jenkins, Jeremiah W ..... 497
**Clayton, ———.** Mentioned ..... 404

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Clayton, Henry D.**
Mentioned ..... 477, 478, 482, 483
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 479
**Cleary, William.**
Mentioned ..... 519
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 563
**Cleburne, Patrick R.** Mentioned ..... 9, 10, 15, 28, 29, 457
**Clemens, ———.** Mentioned ..... 397–399
**Clendennin, Harvey.** Mentioned ..... 437, 438
**Cleveland, Tenn.**
Skirmish at, April 2, 1864* ..... 5
Skirmish near. See *Mink Springs, near Cleveland, Tenn. Skirmish at, April 13, 1864.*
**Clifford, James.** Mentioned ..... 234
**Clifton, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 484
**Clingan, Judge K.** Mentioned ..... 50
**Clinton, Ky.** Guerrilla raid on, March 10, 1864.
Communication from Hugh T. Reid ..... 493
Report of William Hudson Lawrence ..... 493
**Clinton and Moscow, Ky.** Scout from Columbus to, March 30, 1864. Report of William Hudson Lawrence ..... 652
**Clinton, Miss.** Skirmishes at.
Feb. 5, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*

Adams, Wirt. Almon, Harry. Force, Manning F. Howe, John H. McPherson, James B. Starke, Peter B.

March 26, 1864* ..... 5
April 3, 1864* ..... 5
**Coates, James H.**
Correspondence with
McArthur, John ..... 330
Richardson, Robert V ..... 329
Ross, Lawrence S ..... 326, 327
Mentioned ..... 168, 172, 178, 179, 185, 194, 208, 326, 329, 332
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including Yazoo River Expedition ..... 315, 317–320
**Coburn, John.** Mentioned ..... 25, 26
**Cockefair, James M.** Mentioned ..... 169, 191
**Cockerill, Armstead T. M.**
Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 432, 434
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 442
**Cockrell, Francis M.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Coe, Albert L.** Mentioned ..... 460
**Coffin, Oliver S.** Mentioned ..... 261
**Coger, Jack.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Cogswell, Jesse W.** Mentioned ..... 508, 514
**Coldwater Ferry, Miss.** Affair at, Feb. 8, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Itinerary of 1st Brig., 1st Div., 16th Army Corps*, p. 199.
**Cole, E. H.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Coleman, David C.** Mentioned ..... 664, 667

*No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Coles County, Ill.** Riot in. See *Charleston, Coles County, Ill. Riot at, March 28, 1864.*
**Collas, Charles.** Mentioned ..... 233
**Collier, Allen, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 178, 183
**Collier, J. W.** Correspondence with John C. Brown ..... 394
**Collierville, Tenn.**
Advance of Smith's column from, Feb. 11, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of Sherman*, p. 177; *Smith*, p. 255.
Scout from, Jan. 14, 1864. Report of Albert G. Brackett ..... 77
Skirmish near, Jan. 13, 1864.
Communication from Albert G. Brackett ..... 72
Report of Ira R. Gifford ..... 72
**Collins, Garrett L.** Mentioned ..... 170, 227
**Collins, George Jeff.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 639, 641
**Collins, John C.** Mentioned ..... 394, 395
**Collins, Moses N.** Mentioned ..... 105
**Colored Troops.** Treatment of. See *Prisoners of War.*
**Columbia, Tenn., Commanding Officer at.** Correspondence with John Murphy ..... 580
**Columbus, Ky.**
Attack on Union pickets at, March 6, 1864. Report of William Hudson Lawrence ..... 492
Scout from. See *Clinton and Moscow, Ky. Scout from Columbus to, March 30, 1864.*
Skirmishes at.
March 27, 1864. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864. Report of Brayman*, p. 511.
April 11, 1864. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864. Report of Lawrence*, p. 552.
April 13, 1864 * ..... 501
**Columbus, Ky., District of.**
Prince, Henry.
Assigned to command of ..... 515
Assumes command of ..... 516
**Commercial, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 201
**Comstock, James M.**
Mentioned ..... 405
Report of skirmish at Mink Springs, near Cleveland, Tenn., April 13, 1864. 669
**Confederate Troops.**
Armies of the Confederacy. Braxton Bragg charged with the conduct of military operations in the ..... 3
Casualties. Returns of.
Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 479
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 355, 369
Mentioned.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **14th**, 333, 370, 372.
Infantry—*Battalions:* **1st**, 332.
Organization, strength, etc., of Army of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana ..... 332–334
For Volunteers, see respective States.
**Congress, C. S.** Resolution of thanks of, to Nathan B. Forrest and the officers and men of his command ..... 619

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Conley**, Captain. Mentioned ..... 162
**Connecticut Troops.** Mentioned.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **5th**, 11, 101; **20th**, 32, 97–101.
**Connor, John.** Mentioned ..... 491, 492
**Constable, Charles H.** Mentioned ..... 632
**Cook, Alphonso F.**
Mentioned ..... 63
Reports of
Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, Va. Skirmishes at, on Indian Creek, and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864 ..... 413
Jonesville, Va. Action at, Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 60
**Cook, Francis A.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Cook, Jeremiah B.** Mentioned ..... 316, 319, 321, 323–325, 332, 674, 675
**Cook, Mattie**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 320
**Cook, William R.** Mentioned ..... 172, 303, 304, 312, 313
**Cooke, Jabez M.** Mentioned ..... 429
**Coon, Datus E.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 258, 290–292
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 298
**Cooper, Charles S.** Mentioned ..... 169, 575
**Cooper, Emanuel E.** Mentioned ..... 702
**Cooper, John.** Mentioned ..... 634, 635, 643
**Cooper, Joseph A.** Mentioned ..... 52
**Cooper, Samuel.** Mentioned ..... 617
For correspondence, etc., see *Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, C. S. A.*
**Corbin, Henry C.** Mentioned ..... 495
**Corinth, Miss.** Evacuation of, by the Union forces, Jan. 25, 1864* ..... 2
**Cornersville Pike, Tenn.** Affair on. See *Lee's House, on Cornersville Pike, Tenn. Affair at, Jan.* 28, 1864.
**Corns, James M.** Mentioned ..... 413
**Cothel, Eli.** Testimony of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 522
**Cotton.** Capture, disposition, etc., of. See *reports of Sherman*, pp. 177, 178; *Gilchrist*, pp. 396–400; *Brewster to McArthur*, p. 320; *Ellet to Gilchrist*, p. 398.
**Courtland and Moulton, Ala.** Affairs at, March 8, 1864. Report of Grenville M. Dodge ..... 492
**Coverston, Francis M.** Mentioned ..... 243
**Cox,** ———. Mentioned ..... 660
**Cox, Jacob D.**
Assignment to command ..... 5
Correspondence with Henry M. Judah ..... 151
Mentioned ..... 41, 42, 45, 47, 49–51, 53, 105–107, 151, 476, 657
Relieved from command of 23d Army Corps ..... 3
Report of skirmish at Panther Springs, Tenn., March 5, 1864 ..... 490
**Craddock, John.** Mentioned ..... 683–685
**Crandal, Frederick M.** Mentioned ..... 319, 325, 332
**Crane,** Mrs. Mentioned ..... 399
**Creelsboro, Niel.** Mentioned ..... 671
**Crews, J. M.** Mentioned ..... 608, 623
**Criley, John.** Mentioned ..... 438
**Crocker, Marcellus M.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 172, 193, 209–213, 215, 217–221, 235, 237, 239, 244, 246–248, 250
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 237

*No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
Croft, Edward. Mentioned ..... 333
Crook, George. Mentioned ..... 255
Crosley, George W.
Mentioned ..... 171
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 243
Cross, Charles. Mentioned ..... 540
Cross, John H. Mentioned ..... 491
Cross, William.
Itinerary of 1st East Tennessee Brigade, 23d Army Corps, Feb., 1864 ..... 52
Mentioned ..... 52
Reports of
Love's Hill, near Knoxville, Tenn. Capture of Union pickets at, Jan. 24, 1864 ..... 126
Panther Springs, Tenn. Skirmish at, March 5, 1864 ..... 491
Crossland, Ed. Mentioned ..... 333, 506, 546, 607
Crowe, Samuel S. Mentioned ..... 168
Crow's Valley. See *Rocky Face Ridge.*
Cruft, Charles.
Mentioned ..... 9–11, 23, 419, 421, 429, 430, 432–434, 447, 449, 450, 456, 462–464, 466, 468, 469, 472–475
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 422
Crump, James R. Mentioned ..... 342, 371
Culberson, A. B. Mentioned ..... 109, 112
Cumberland, Army of the.
Granger, Gordon, relieved from command of 4th Army Corps ..... 5
Howard, Oliver O.
Assigned to command of 4th Army Corps ..... 5
Resumes command of 11th Army Corps ..... 3
Itineraries. See *Army Corps; Cavalry Corps; Engineer Troops.*
Orders, General, series 1864: No. 3 (*Palmer*), 445.
Organization, strength, etc., Feb. 22, 1864 ..... 419–421
Schurz, Carl, temporarily in command of 11th Corps ..... 2
Cumberland, Department of the.
Operations in, Jan. 1–April 30, 1864. Reports of George H. Thomas .... 6, 14, 18
Report of prisoners of war and deserters received and disposed of .. 12, 13, 17, 22
Statement of rations issued to destitute citizens in ..... 17
Cumberland Mountains, Tenn. Expedition from Gallatin to, Jan. 28–Feb. 8, 1864. Report of Henry K. McConnell ..... 155
Cumberland River, Ky.
Affair on the, Jan. 27, 1864. Report of Edward H. Hobson ..... 152
Skirmish on, March 19, 1864. Report of Edward H. Hobson ..... 624
Cumming, Alfred.
Mentioned ..... 482, 483
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 482
Cuney, Stephen. Mentioned ..... 157
Cunningham, J. H. Mentioned ..... 665
Cunningham, Richard D. Mentioned ..... 417, 548
Cunningham, Thomas C. Mentioned ..... 141
Curd, V. K. Mentioned ..... 639, 641
Curtis, Isaac W.
Mentioned ..... 171, 290, 292, 304, 305, 308
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 301
Curtiss, William E. Mentioned ..... 480
Cutler, ———. Mentioned ..... 529

Page.

**Cypress Swamp, Tenn.** Skirmishes at.
April 3, 1864* ..... 5
April 10, 1864* ..... 5
**Dagley, F. H.** Mentioned ..... 126
**Dalton, Ga.**
Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864.
Casualties. Returns of.
Confederate Troops ..... 479
Union Troops ..... 14, 421, 458, 460, 465
Communications from
Case, Charles R ..... 448, 451
Dunklin, James H ..... 481
Hindman, Thomas C ..... 477
Palmer, John M ..... 451
Thomas, George H ..... 449, 450, 469
Whipple, William D ..... 449, 450
Congratulatory Orders. Palmer ..... 445
Itinerary of Joseph Wheeler. (Cavalry Corps, Army of Tennessee) .. 484
Reports of
Bennett, John E ..... 435
Carey, Oliver H. P ..... 440
Carlin, William P ..... 453
Case, Charles R ..... 446
Champion, Thomas E ..... 430
Clayton, Henry D ..... 479
Cockerill, Armstead T. M ..... 442
Cruft, Charles ..... 422
Cumming, Alfred ..... 482
Davis, Jefferson C ..... 455
Dickerman, Willard A ..... 467
Flook, Henry R ..... 461
Grose, William ..... 431, 432
Heilman, William H ..... 444
Higley, John H ..... 480
Hotchkiss, T. R ..... 483
Hurd, Orrin D ..... 439
Johnson, Richard W ..... 451
Johnston, Joseph E ..... 476
Kilgour, William M ..... 437
Long, Eli ..... 469–473
Lowrey, Mark P ..... 481
McCook, Daniel ..... 460
Menzies, Samuel G ..... 429
Morgan, James D ..... 458
Pettus, Edmund W ..... 482
Reynolds, Alexander W ..... 483
Simonson, Peter ..... 443
Stewart, Alexander P ..... 477
Stineback, William C ..... 465
Stovall, Marcellus A ..... 479
Turchin, John B ..... 462
Van Antwerp, William W ..... 474

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Dalton, Ga.**—Continued.
Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864.
Reports of
Waddell, James F ... 484
Waters, Louis H ... 438
Wheeler, Joseph ... 484
Scout from Rossville toward, and skirmish (22d) Jan. 21–23, 1864. Report of William P. Boone ... 109
Skirmish at, Jan. 6, 1864* ... 1
Skirmishes near, and at Catoosa Station and Tunnel Hill, Feb. 23, 1864. See *Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864. Reports of*
Carlin, William P. Johnson, Richard W. Long, Eli.
Cruft, Charles.

**Dana, Charles A.** For correspondence as Assistant Secretary of War, see *War Department, U. S.*

**Dandridge, Tenn.**
Operations about, including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864.
Communication from Samuel D. Sturgis ... 83
Casualties. Returns of. Union Troops ... 86
Reports of
Campbell, Archibald P ... 85
Elliott, Washington L ... 81, 82, 84
Garrard, Israel ... 92
Jordan, Thomas J ... 87
La Grange, Oscar H ... 89, 90
Longstreet, James ... 93
McCook, Edward M ... 84
Parke, John G ... 78
Savage, Edward G ... 88
Smith, Benjamin ... 88
Sturgis, Samuel D ... 79, 80
Wolford, Frank ... 91
Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864.
Congratulations of John G. Foster to Cavalry Corps ... 138, 142
Reports of
Campbell, Archibald P ... 142
Foster, John G ... 130, 131
Garrard, Israel ... 147
La Grange, Oscar H ... 143, 145
Lilly, Eli ... 146
Longstreet, James ... 149, 150
McCook, Edward M ... 139, 141
Savage, Edward G ... 148
Sturgis, Samuel D ... 131, 132, 134, 135
See also *general report of Foster*, pp. 42, 46.
Scout from near. See *Clark's Ferry, Tenn. Scout from near Dandridge to, Jan. 10–11, 1864.*
Sketch ... 133
Skirmishes at.
Jan. 1, 1864* ... 1
Jan. 14, 1864* ... 1
Daniels, ———. Mentioned ... 677

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Davenport, William.** Mentioned ..... 484
**Davidson, Francis M.** Mentioned ..... 137, 138, 148
**Davidson, Henry B.** Mentioned ..... 438, 489
**Davidson, Henry G.** Mentioned ..... 421
**Davidson, Theodore F.** Mentioned ..... 76
**Davis, Lieutenant.** Mentioned ..... 494
**Davis, A. L.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Davis, H. C.**
Correspondence with John T. Young ..... 594
Mentioned ..... 334, 605
**Davis, James.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Davis, Jefferson.**
Correspondence with War Department, C. S ..... 60, 77, 344
Mentioned ..... 200, 335–337, 344, 476, 477, 591, 606, 611, 617
**Davis, Jefferson C.**
Itineraries of 2d Division, 14th Army Corps, Jan.–April, 1864 ..... 30, 31
Mentioned ..... 9–11, 14, 30, 31, 420, 421, 424, 449, 450, 452, 458–460, 463, 467, 474, 490
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 455
**Davis, Joseph R.** Mentioned ..... 175, 200
**Davis, Reuben A.** Mentioned ..... 154, 411–413
**Davis, S.** Mentioned ..... 215, 217
**Davis, William P.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Davis, Wirt.** Mentioned ..... 259, 305, 307
**Day, George W.** Mentioned ..... 97, 112, 150
**Dayton, Lewis M.** Mentioned ..... 179
**Deane, Henry H.** Mentioned ..... 325
**De Buol, U. G. Scheller.** Mentioned ..... 552
**Decatur, Ala.**
Affair near, April 24, 1864. Report of James C. Veatch ..... 685
Skirmishes at.
March 7, 1864* ..... 4
April 30, 1864. Report of James B. McPherson ..... 692
Skirmishes near.
April 13, 1864. Report of John H. Kuhn ..... 669
April 18, 1864. Report of James C. Veatch ..... 671
April 27, 1864. Report of James C. Veatch ..... 686
**Decker, William H.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Dedmon's Trace, Ga.** Scout to, April 10, 1864. Report of Robert H. G. Minty ..... 658
**Dee, Edward W.** Mentioned ..... 251
**Deer Head Cove, Ga.** Scout from Lookout Valley to, March 29–31, 1864. Report of George W. Woolly ..... 652
**De Groat, Charles H.** Mentioned ..... 169, 503, 509
**Delta,** Steamer. Attack on, on the Mississippi River, Jan. 6, 1864. Report of Lawrence S. Ross ..... 66
**Dempsey, Bartholomew.** Mentioned ..... 445
**Denning, Maria,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 553
**Deserters.** Report of number of, received and disposed of in Department of the Cumberland in Jan., Feb., March, and April, 1864 ..... 12, 13, 17, 22
**Des Moines,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 317, 320
**De Witt, W. W.** Mentioned ..... 65
**Dibrell, George G.** Mentioned ..... 68, 497

*No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

Dickerman, Willard A.
Mentioned ..... 419, 421–423, 425–431, 433
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 467
Dickerson, Christopher J. Mentioned ..... 420, 458–460, 478
Dickey, William A. Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 523
Dieffenwierth, P. H. Mentioned ..... 157
Dillard, ———. Mentioned ..... 487
Dilworth, Caleb J. Mentioned ..... 420, 461
Dittimore, Henry. Mentioned ..... 641
Dodge, Grenville M.
Correspondence with
McPherson, James B ..... 574
Veatch, James C ..... 579
Mentioned ..... 7, 15, 16, 117, 122, 180, 190, 208, 576, 578, 579, 626, 692
Reports of
Athens, Ala. Scout from, March 30, 1864 ..... 654
Brown's Ferry, Ala. Operations about, Feb. 19, 1864 ..... 408, 409
Courtland and Moulton, Ala. Affairs at, March 8, 1864 ..... 492
Moulton, Ala. Skirmish near, March 21, 1864 ..... 625
North Alabama. Operations in, Jan. 23–29, 1864 ..... 118–120
Dohan, ———. Mentioned ..... 399, 400
Doherty, ———. Mentioned ..... 156
Dollard, Peter. Mentioned ..... 665
Donahoe, David. Mentioned ..... 475
Doss, W. L. Mentioned ..... 332
Douch, John. Mentioned ..... 276
Douglass, John C. Mentioned ..... 234
Dowdy, Rufus. Mentioned ..... 55
Downs, John. Mentioned ..... 684
Drake, J. L. Mentioned ..... 332
Drom, James E. Mentioned ..... 240, 241, 244, 245
Duck River, Tenn. Skirmish on, April 22, 1864* ..... 6
Ducktown Road, Ga. Skirmish on, April 3, 1864* ..... 5
Duckworth, William L. Mentioned ..... 334, 351, 355, 543, 545, 557, 589, 592, 622
Duer, John O.
Mentioned ..... 170, 228, 229
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 233
Duff, William L. Mentioned ..... 334
Duffield, Henry M. For correspondence, etc., see *John G. Parkhurst.*
Dugger, W. W. Mentioned ..... 417
Dukedom, Tenn. Skirmish at, Feb. 28, 1864. Report of Hugh T. Reid ..... 485
Dukes, Benjamin. Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 643
Dumonteil, F. Mentioned ..... 372, 373
Duncan, ———. Mentioned ..... 178, 183
Dunklin, James H.
Correspondence with Mark P. Lowrey ..... 481
Mentioned ..... 481
Dunlap, James R. Mentioned ..... 222
Dunlop, Isaac L. Mentioned ..... 333
Dunning, S. W. Mentioned ..... 215, 217
Dwire, Hezekiah G. Mentioned ..... 194, 291, 299
Dye, John O. Mentioned ..... 651

*No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Dyer, ———.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Dyer, Major.** Mentioned ..... 297
**Dyer, G. B.** Mentioned ..... 368
**Earle, R. G.** Mentioned ..... 333, 370
**Earp, C. R.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Eastern Kentucky.** Operations in, March 28–April 16, 1864.
Communication from Simon B. Buckner ..... 650
Itinerary of U. S. forces, District of Eastern Kentucky, March 28–April 14, 1864 ..... 647
Reports of
Gallup, George W ..... 646, 647
Hobson, Edward H ..... 645, 646
Johnson, Thomas ..... 649
**Easton, Langdon C.** Reports of
Military storehouses constructed at
Bridgeport, Ala ..... 20
Chattanooga, Tenn ..... 21
Steamers plying on the Upper Tennessee River ..... 21
**East Tennessee, Department of.**
Buckner, Simon B.
Assumes command of ..... 5
Temporarily in command of ..... 4
Longstreet, James, resumes command of ..... 4
Longstreet's corps ordered to Virginia from, April 7, 1864 ..... 5
**Eaton, Charles G.** Mentioned ..... 168, 550
**Eberman, Jacob S.** Mentioned ..... 648
**Ector, Matthew D.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Eden, John R.** Mentioned ..... 632, 636
**Edmundson, H. A.** Mentioned ..... 646
**Edwards, John S.** Mentioned ..... 91
**Edwards, Owen.** Mentioned ..... 404
**Edwards' Ferry, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 4, 1864 * ..... 164
**Egan, John.** Mentioned ..... 702
**Eggleston, Beroth B.** Mentioned ..... 36
**Egypt Station, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 19, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Heinrichs, Gustav. Moore, Franklin. Waring, George E., jr.
**Ekings, Robert M.**
Mentioned ..... 508, 514
Reports of
Island No. 10, Tenn. Affair near, March 6, 1864 ..... 491
New Madrid, Mo. Scout from Island No. 10, Tenn., to, March 18, 1864 ..... 623
Riley's Landing, Tenn. Expedition from Island No. 10 to, Feb. 17, 1864 ..... 404
**Elkin, Rush L.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Ellet, Alfred W.**
Correspondence with Charles A. Gilchrist ..... 398
Mentioned ..... 184, 185, 395–401
**Ellidge's Mills, Ga.** Scout to, etc. See *Burke's and Ellidge's Mills, Ga. Scout from Ooltewah, Tenn., to, Feb. 18–19, 1864.*
**Elliott, Joel H.** Mentioned ..... 274, 275
**Elliott, Marcus D.** Mentioned ..... 170

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Elliott, William.**
Correspondence with Leonidas Polk ..... 342
Mentioned ..... 368

**Elliott, Washington L.**
Correspondence with Samuel D. Sturgis ..... 74, 83
Itineraries of Cavalry Corps, Army of the Cumberland, Jan.–April, 1864 ... 33–40
Mentioned ..... 33, 34, 38, 39, 44, 68, 74, 79, 85, 93, 110, 691
Reports of operations about Dandridge, Tenn., including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 81, 82, 84

**Ellis' Bridge, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 21, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*

Coon, Datus E. Forrest, Nathan B. Hepburn, William P.

**Emerald, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 325
**Emma, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 201
**Emma Boyd, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 317, 318, 320
**Engineer Troops, Army of the Cumberland.** Itinerary, Jan. 18–Feb. 29, 1864 ..... 40
**English, George H.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Enyart, David A.** Mentioned ..... 23, 24, 419, 423, 474
**Epeneter, Charles J.** Mentioned ..... 535, 537, 538, 569, 570
**Era, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 69
**Errett, Henry C.** Mentioned ..... 234
**Estes, Benjamin P.**
Mentioned ..... 150
Report of skirmish near Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 27, 1864 ..... 151
**Eubank, J. J.** Mentioned ..... 537
**Evans, ———.** Mentioned ..... 399
**Evans, George W.** Mentioned ..... 460
**Everett, H. C.** Mentioned ..... 60, 61
**Everett, Peter.** Mentioned ..... 687
**Ewart, James.** Mentioned ..... 289
**Ewing, Hugh.** Mentioned ..... 128
**Exchange, U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 324
**Exum, James T.** Mentioned ..... 55
**Fackenthall, Jonathan L.** Mentioned ..... 273, 287
**Fahnestock, Allen L.** Mentioned ..... 461
**Fain's Island, Indian Creek, Island Ford, Kelley's Ford, and Swann's Island.** Skirmishes at, Jan. 28, 1864. See *Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864. Reports of*

Garrard, Israel. Longstreet, James. Sturgis, Samuel D.
La Grange, Oscar H. McCook, Edward M.

**Fairfield, Michael F.** Mentioned ..... 671
**Fair Garden, Tenn.** Engagement near, Jan. 27, 1864. See *Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864. Reports of*

Campbell, Archibald P. Lilly, Eli. Savage, Edward G.
Foster, John G. McCook, Edward M. Sturgis, Samuel D.
La Grange, Oscar H.

**Falls, Elias.** Testimony of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 523
**Fancy Farms, Ky.** Affair at, March 22, 1864. Report of William Hudson Lawrence ..... 623
**Faris [?], Colonel.** Mentioned ..... 543
**Farish, W. S.** Mentioned ..... 368

Page.
**Farley, Edwin.** Mentioned ..... 675
**Farnan, James.** Mentioned ..... 249
**Farragut, David G.** Mentioned ..... 177
**Farrar, Josiah.** Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 467, 468
**Farrell, M.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Farris, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 520
**Faulkner, W. W.** Mentioned ..... 65, 505, 506, 543, 653
**Featherston, Winfield S.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Febles, John C.**
Mentioned ..... 276, 585
Reports of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 583, 584
**Fee, Marcellus.** Mentioned ..... 466
**Feeney, James F.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Fellows, William W.** Mentioned ..... 461
**Fentress County, Tenn.** Skirmish in, Feb. 13, 1864* ..... 3
**Ferguson, Champ.** Mentioned ..... 7, 16, 65, 162, 416, 485, 494
**Ferguson, Milton J.** Mentioned ..... 51, 67, 394, 395
**Ferguson, Samuel W.**
Mentioned ..... 174, 209, 221, 227, 250, 333, 341, 342, 358–361, 363, 366–371, 376, 377
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 378, 379
**Ferguson, S. M.** Mentioned ..... 646–648
**Ferguson, William.**
Correspondence with Nathan B. Forrest ..... 599
Mentioned ..... 519, 554, 598
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 571
**Ferrero, Edward.**
Mentioned ..... 48, 108
Report of skirmishes at Strawberry Plains and Armstrong's Ferry, Tenn., Jan. 21–22, 1864 ..... 104
**Field, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 381
**Finkler, William.** Mentioned ..... 159
**Finley, Jesse J.** Mentioned ..... 478
**Fischer, Louis.** Mentioned ..... 287, 289
**Fitch, ———.** Mentioned ..... 529
**Fitch, Asa B.** Mentioned ..... 251
**Fitch, John A.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Flaney, ———.** Mentioned ..... 64
**Flat Creek, Tenn.**
Expedition from Knoxville to, Feb. 1, 1864. Report of John R. Bond ..... 159
Skirmish at, Feb. 20, 1864* ..... 3
**Flat Creek and Muddy Creek, Tenn.** Skirmishes at, Jan. 26, 1864. See *Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, Jan.* 26–28, 1864. *Report of Sturgis*, p. 131.
**Flat Creek Valley, Tenn.** Skirmish in, March 15, 1864* ..... 4
**Fleming, Charles.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Fleming, L. J.** Mentioned ..... 402
**Flint River, Ala.** Affair at, April 17, 1864. Report of John H. Kuhn ..... 670
**Flook, Henry R.**
Mentioned ..... 446–448
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 461

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
Florence, Ala. Skirmish near, April 12, 1864. Report of Samuel S. Ives..... 662
Flournoy, P. C. Mentioned ..... 333
Force, Manning F.
Mentioned..... 170, 192, 209-212, 220, 226-228, 231, 234-237
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864..... 227, 228
Forks of Beaver, Ky. Skirmish at, March 31. See *Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March 28-April 16, 1864. Report of Gallup*, p. 646.
Forney, George H. Mentioned ..... 332
Forney, John H. Mentioned ..... 334
Forrest, A. H. Mentioned ..... 349
Forrest, Jeffrey E. Mentioned ..... 253, 258, 268, 279, 291, 294, 299, 332, 341, 348-355
Forrest, Nathan B.
Congratulatory Orders. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864 ..... 356
Correspondence with
Anderson, Charles W..... 598
Booth, Lionel F..... 560, 561, 594, 596, 597
Ferguson, William ..... 599
Hawkins, Isaac R..... 545
Hicks, Stephen G ..... 547, 548
Lee, Stephen D..... 617, 618
Marshall, James..... 597
Polk, Leonidas ..... 619
Washburn, Cadwallader C..... 586, 588, 590, 591, 601
Young, John T ..... 595
Mentioned..... 15, 16, 37, 65, 153, 174, 175, 197-199, 208, 252, 255, 256, 259, 261, 268, 298, 299, 322, 332-338, 340-342, 356, 357, 362-364, 366, 367, 370, 377, 379, 380, 390, 502, 505, 506, 509-512, 520, 521, 523-525, 527, 528, 530-533, 535, 536, 538, 542, 544, 545, 547-549, 551, 552, 554-562, 564, 565, 570, 571, 575-577, 579-582, 585, 586, 590, 594-600, 602-607, 613, 614, 617, 619-623, 625-627, 693-702
Reports of
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864, including operations against expedition from Memphis, Tenn..... 346-351
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16-April 14, 1864 ..... 607-609, 611, 613
Resolution of thanks of C. S. Congress to, and the officers and men of his command ..... 619
Forrest, W. H. Mentioned ..... 299
Forrest's Expedition. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16-April 14, 1864.*
Forsyth, ———. Mentioned..... 319
Fort, Greenbury L. Mentioned ..... 400
Fort Gaines, Ala. See *Forts Morgan and Gaines, Mobile Bay, Ala. Naval reconnaissance of, Jan. 20, 1864.*
Fort Pillow, Tenn. Capture of, April 12, 1864.
Treatment of Union prisoners captured at.
Communications from
Brayman, Mason ..... 518, 534
Davis, Jefferson ..... 607, 617
Forrest, Nathan B..... 586, 590, 591, 596, 617, 618
Lee, Stephen D..... 599
War Department, C. S ..... 606, 617
Washburn, Cadwallader C..... 587, 588, 590, 601, 603

Page.

**Fort Pillow, Tenn.** Capture of, April 12, 1864—Continued.
Treatment of Union prisoners captured at.
Statements and testimony of
Addison, Sandy ..... 534
Anderson, Ransom ..... 519
Bevel, Elois ..... 520
Bingham, James R ..... 520
Cason, Hardin ..... 522
Cothel, Eli ..... 522
Dickey, William A ..... 523
Falls, Elias ..... 523
Gaylord, Wilbur H ..... 534
Hogan, Frank ..... 536
Hopper, Nancy M ..... 533
Huston, George ..... 536
Lewis, James ..... 537
McLagan, W. R ..... 557
Mays, William J ..... 525
Nichols, Emanuel ..... 526
Rankin, Daniel H ..... 526
Ray, John F ..... 527
Revelle, Hardy N ..... 528
Robinson, Benjamin ..... 529
Rufins, Ann Jane ..... 530
Souden, Jason ..... 524
Stamps, Daniel ..... 530
Stewart, Jerry ..... 537
Taylor, James N ..... 531
Walker, William P ..... 532
Weaver, Henry F ..... 538
Williams, Rebecca ..... 533
Wilson, Jacob ..... 539
Winn, William A ..... 533
Young, Philip ..... 540
Statements in regard to, subscribed before
Munroe, John H ..... 522, 529
Smith, Charles B ..... 520
Smith, Malcom F ..... 534, 536–540
Stanley, William ..... 519, 522–524, 526, 527, 531–533
Talmadge, Isaac M ..... 530
For reports, see *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864. Reports of*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brayman, Mason. | Hurlbut, Stephen A. | Smith, Francis A. |
| Chalmers, James R. | Lamberg, Carl A. | Smith, William T. |
| Cleary, William. | Leaming, Mack J. | Van Horn, Daniel. |
| Ferguson, William. | Lee, Stephen D. | Woodruff, John G. |
| Forrest, Nathan B. | Shepley, George F. | |

See also inclosures in *report of Forrest*, pp. 594–605.

**Forts Morgan and Gaines, Mobile Bay, Ala.** Naval reconnaissance of, Jan. 20, 1864 ..... 2

**Foster, Henry C.** Mentioned ..... 229

**Foster, John G.**
Congratulations to Cavalry Corps ..... 138, 142
Correspondence with Samuel D. Sturgis ..... 111, 138
Itineraries of Army of the Ohio, Jan.–April, 1864 ..... 48–54

Page.
**Foster, John G.**—Continued.
Mentioned ..... 8, 19, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 57, 78, 111, 127, 130, 131, 138, 142
Relieved from command of Army of the Ohio ..... 3
Reports of
Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 130, 131
Ohio, Department of the. Operations in, Jan. 1–Feb. 9, 1864 ..... 41, 44
Quallatown, N. C. Expedition from Maryville, Tenn., to, Jan. 31–Feb. 7, 1864 ..... 159
Sevierville, Tenn. Affair at (13th), and skirmish at Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th), Jan. 13–14, 1864 ..... 73
**Foster, John S.** Mentioned ..... 170, 211, 228
**Foster, John W.** Mentioned ..... 54
**Fowle, Nathaniel W.** Mentioned ..... 649
**Fox, Francis W.** Mentioned ..... 502, 509
**Fox, J. D.** Mentioned ..... 566
**Franklin, David.** Mentioned ..... 98
**Frazier, John.** Mentioned ..... 643
**Freeman, Edward.** Mentioned ..... 287
**Freeman, Thomas J.** Mentioned ..... 543
**Freesner, Levi.** Mentioned ..... 634, 639, 642
**French, Samuel G.** Mentioned ..... 174, 175, 210, 333–335, 358, 380
**Frick's Gap, Ga.** Scout to. See *Stevens' and Frick's Gaps, Ga. Scout from Whiteside's, Tenn., to, Feb.* 25–26, 1864.
**Frohock, William T.** Mentioned ..... 627
**Froman, Anderson.** Mentioned ..... 128
**Fry, John C.** Mentioned ..... 170
**Gage, Joseph S.** Mentioned ..... 116
**Gaines, Fort.** See *Fort Gaines.*
**Galbreath, John.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 640
**Gale, W. D.** Mentioned ..... 617
**Gallatin, Tenn.** Expedition from. See *Cumberland Mountains, Tenn. Expedition from Gallatin to, Jan.* 28–*Feb.* 8, 1864.
**Galliher, Cyrus J.** Mentioned ..... 308
**Gallup, George W.**
Itinerary of 1st Division, 23d Army Corps, Feb., 1864 ..... 51
Itinerary of U. S. forces during operations in Eastern Kentucky, March 28–April 16, 1864 ..... 647
Mentioned ..... 51, 54, 395, 645, 648, 650
Reports of
Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March 28–April 16, 1864 ..... 646, 647
Laurel Creek, Wayne County, W. Va. Skirmish at, Feb. 15, 1864 ..... 394
**Gamble, Larken B.** Mentioned ..... 491
**Gannett, Isaac.** Mentioned ..... 141
**Gardenhire, James T.** Mentioned ..... 102
**Garrard, Israel.**
Mentioned ..... 33, 35, 42, 79–81, 83, 85, 86, 91, 131, 132–138, 496
Reports of Dandridge, Tenn.
Operations about, including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 92
Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 147
**Garrard, Kenner.**
Itineraries of 2d Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, Feb.–April, 1864 ..... 37–39
Mentioned ..... 15, 19, 37, 39

Page.

**Garrard, Theophilus T.**
Mentioned ..... 42, 46, 656, 657
Reports of
Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, Va. Skirmishes at, on Indian Creek, and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864 ..... 411
Tazewell, Tenn. Skirmish at, Jan. 24, 1864 ..... 127
**Garrett, Abraham E.** Mentioned ..... 155
**Garvin, S.** Mentioned ..... 386
**Gates, Elijah.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Gay, Weed.** Mentioned ..... 687
**Gaylord, Wilbur H.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 534
**Geary, John W.**
Itineraries of 2d Division, 12th Army Corps, Jan.-March, 1864 ..... 27, 28
Mentioned ..... 18, 19, 27, 28, 32, 644, 668
Report of reconnaissance from Bridgeport down the Tennessee River to vicinity of Triana, Ala., April 12-16, 1864 ..... 663
**Geddes, James L.** Mentioned ..... 169, 195, 196
**George, James Z.** Mentioned ..... 334
**George, John F.**
Mentioned ..... 99, 100
Report of skirmish at Tracy City, Tenn., Jan. 20, 1864 ..... 101
**Georgia.** Operations in. See *Summary*, pp. 1-6.
**Georgia Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **Columbus**, 333, 363, 370, 373, 375.
Cavalry—*Battalions:* **6th** (*State Guards*), 109, 112. *Companies:* **Nelson's**, 333, 369.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **34th**, 482; **42d**, 480.
Miscellaneous—**Davenport's Home Guards**, 664.
**Gholson, Samuel J.** Mentioned ..... 252, 256, 306, 311, 341, 351, 352, 354, 607, 609
**Gibson, A. J.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Gibson, Randall L.** Mentioned ..... 478, 481
**Gibson, Thomas S.** Mentioned ..... 412
**Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, Va.** Skirmishes at, on Indian Creek, and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864. Reports of
Cook, Alphonso F ..... 413
Garrard, Theophilus T ..... 411
Jones, William E ..... 412
Peters, William E ..... 414
Thompson, John B ..... 415
**Gifford, Ira R.**
Mentioned ..... 72, 77
Report of skirmish near Collierville, Tenn., Jan. 13, 1864 ..... 72
**Gifford, William.** Mentioned ..... 684
**Gilbert, James I.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Gilchrist, Charles A.**
Correspondence with Alfred W. Ellet ..... 398
Mentioned ..... 399
Report of expedition from Vicksburg to Grand Gulf, Miss., Feb. 15-March 6, 1864 ..... 395
**Gillem, Alvan C.** Mentioned ..... 7
**Gillespie, William C. B.**
Mentioned ..... 241-244
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864 ..... 239
**Gilman, William.** Mentioned ..... 635

Page.
Gilmer, Jeremy F. Mentioned ..... 401
Ginn, Thomas J. Mentioned ..... 169
Gittings, Erskine.
Mentioned ..... 105, 107, 108
Report of skirmishes at Strawberry Plains and Armstrong's Ferry, Tenn., Jan. 21–22, 1864 ..... 108
Gladden, John W. Statement of Confederate losses during demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 13
Gleason, Newell. Mentioned ..... 420
Glendale, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 555
Glover, A. P. Mentioned ..... 371
Goddard, Joseph A. Mentioned ..... 428
Gooch, Daniel W. Mentioned ..... 513
Good, Joseph. Mentioned ..... 420
Goodman, W. A. Mentioned ..... 614
Goodnow, James. Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 467, 468
Goodrich, James. Mentioned ..... 634
Goodwin, John. Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 619
Goodwin, Robert M. Mentioned ..... 12, 22
Gore, Nounce L. Mentioned ..... 56
Gossett, John. Mentioned ..... 640
Gould, Lieutenant. Mentioned ..... 99
Gouraud, George E. Mentioned ..... 110
Gourd Neck and Guntersville, Ala. Expedition from Larkin's Landing to, March 2–3, 1864. Reports of
Oliver, John M ..... 487
Smith, Giles A ..... 486
Graessle, Frederick. Mentioned ..... 278
Graham, A. N. Mentioned ..... 639
Graham, John. Mentioned ..... 381
Graham, Samuel. Mentioned ..... 308
Granbury, H. B. Mentioned ..... 477
Grand Gulf, Miss.
Expedition from Vicksburg to, Feb. 15–March 6, 1864. Report of Charles A. Gilchrist ..... 395
Skirmish at, Jan. 18, 1864* ..... 2
Granger, Gordon.
Correspondence with George H. Thomas ..... 14, 485
Itineraries of 4th Army Corps, Jan.–April, 1864 ..... 22–24
Mentioned ..... 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 38, 41, 42, 45, 47, 406
Relieved from command of 4th Army Corps ..... 5
Report of skirmish near Maryville, Tenn., Feb. 18, 1864 ..... 406
Grant, ———. Mentioned ..... 397
Grant, U. S.
Assignment to command ..... 4
Correspondence with Army Headquarters ..... 131
Mentioned ..... 7, 8, 44, 47, 57, 173–175, 184, 254, 338, 359, 393, 450, 515, 516, 572
Report of affair at Sevierville, Tenn. (13th), and skirmish at Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th), Jan. 13–14, 1864 ..... 73
Graves, George C. Mentioned ..... 299, 300
Gray, Fred. Mentioned ..... 646
Gray, Horace. Mentioned ..... 36

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Gray, Thomas P.**
Mentioned ..... 510, 514
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 544
**Grebe, M. M. R. W.** Mentioned ..... 265, 274
**Green, George.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Green, H. G.** Mentioned ..... 640
**Green, Obadiah.** Mentioned ..... 623
**Greene, A. C.** Mentioned ..... 479
**Greeneville, Tenn.** Skirmish near, April 15, 1864. Report of John M. Schofield ..... 670
**Greenough, Ogden.** Mentioned ..... 229
**Greer, H. C.** Mentioned ..... 569
**Gregg, ———.** Mentioned ..... 404
**Gresham, Walter Q.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 193, 213, 238, 246
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 247
**Grierson, Benjamin H.**
Correspondence with George E. Waring, jr ..... 585
Itinerary of Cavalry Division, 16th Army Corps, Feb. and March, 1864. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc ..... 261
Mentioned ..... 171, 172, 176, 181, 193, 254, 259, 264, 266, 268, 269, 271, 275, 276, 284, 290–296, 301, 304, 305, 307–309, 350, 377, 506, 579, 582, 608, 623
Reports of
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including expedition from Memphis, Tenn ..... 260
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 581, 582
**Griffin, Peter.** Mentioned ..... 233
**Griffith, Benjamin.** Mentioned ..... 661
**Griffith, John.** Mentioned ..... 126, 333, 373, 675, 676
**Grimes, Derastus L.** Mentioned ..... 65
**Grose, Mrs.** Mentioned ..... 178
**Grose, William.**
Mentioned ..... 9, 38, 419, 422–428, 430, 435–437, 441, 443, 445, 450, 468, 471, 473, 474
Reports of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 431, 432
**Grosvenor, Edward.** Mentioned ..... 464
**Grower, William T. C.** Mentioned ..... 169, 503, 509, 575
**Gullitte, J. M.** Mentioned ..... 668
**Gunboat A.** Mentioned ..... 21
**Gunboat B.** Mentioned ..... 21
**Gunboat No. 3.** Mentioned ..... 388
**Gunboat No. 5.** Mentioned ..... 388
**Gunboat No. 7.** Mentioned ..... 594
**Gunboat No. 9.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Gunboat No. 28.** Mentioned ..... 558, 562
**Gunboat No. 38.** Mentioned ..... 388, 389
**Guntersville, Ala.** Expedition to. See *Gourd Neck and Guntersville, Ala. Expedition from Larkin's Landing to, March 2–3, 1864.*
**Gwaltney, Leonidas.** Mentioned ..... 524
**Hale, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 436
**Half Mountain, on Licking River, Ky.** Action at, April 14, 1864. See *Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March 28–April 16, 1864. Reports of Gallup*, p. 647; *Johnson*, p. 649; *itinerary of U. S. forces*, p. 649.

Page.

Hall, Cyrus.
Mentioned ..... 171, 193, 219, 237, 238, 247
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 245
Hall, George R. Report of raid on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, near Tullahoma, Tenn., March 16, 1864 ..... 500
Hall, John P. Mentioned ..... 665, 666
Hall, William.
Mentioned ..... 170
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 224
Halleck, Henry W.
Assignment as Chief of Staff ..... 4
Mentioned ..... 173, 184
Hambright, Henry A. Mentioned ..... 420, 451, 452
Hamilton, ———. Mentioned ..... 396, 398
Hamilton, Oliver P. Mentioned ..... 155, 156, 416, 624
Hamilton, Thomas M. Mentioned ..... 301
Hammond, John W. Report of scout to Nola Chucky Bend, near Morristown, Tenn., March 12, 1864 ..... 496
Haney, Owen.
Correspondence with John Murphy ..... 580
Mentioned ..... 576
Hankins, Daniel S. Mentioned ..... 126
Hanks, Ellsbury. Mentioned ..... 643
Hanks, S. G. Mentioned ..... 635
Hannon, M. W. Mentioned ..... 118
Hanson, Ferdinand. Mentioned ..... 278–280
Happy, James B. Mentioned ..... 417
Hardee, Henry W. Mentioned ..... 420
Hardee, William J. Mentioned ..... 15, 19, 337, 338, 340, 341, 477
Hardin County, Tenn. Skirmish in, Feb. 9, 1864* ..... 3
Hardwicke, James. Mentioned ..... 642
Hardwicke, James [Jordan?] E. Mentioned ..... 635
Hardwicke, James S. Mentioned ..... 635
Hardwicke, Jordan E. Mentioned ..... 642
Hardwicke, Samuel. Mentioned ..... 642
Hardwicke, William P. Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 642, 643
Hardy, Major. Mentioned ..... 545, 624
Harker, Charles G. Mentioned ..... 23, 41, 79
Harmon, Oscar F. Mentioned ..... 31, 420
Harris [?], ———. Mentioned ..... 542
Harris, Colonel. Mentioned ..... 698, 699
Harris, Clark M. Mentioned ..... 420, 452
Harris [?], J. G. Mentioned ..... 548
Harris, J. L. Mentioned ..... 333
Harris, Pryor N. Mentioned ..... 153
Harris, Samuel J. Mentioned ..... 421, 456, 457
Harris, Thomas H.
Mentioned ..... 556
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 556
Harris, William C.
Mentioned ..... 408
Report of scout from Ooltewah, Tenn., to Burke's and Ellidge's Mills, Ga., Feb. 18–19, 1864 ..... 407

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Harrison, ———.** Mentioned ..... 677
**Harrison, Benjamin.** Mentioned ..... 25, 26
**Harrison, Isaac F.** Mentioned ..... 67, 158
**Harrison, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 68, 90
**Harrison, Thomas J.**
Mentioned ..... 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 421, 451–454, 488–490, 493
Reports of
Leet's Tan-yard, Ga. Skirmish at, March 5, 1864 ..... 489
Sparta, Tenn. Operations about, Jan. 4–14, 1864 ..... 65
**Harrison and Ooltewah, Tenn.** Scout from Chattanooga to, Jan. 21, 1864. Report of Geza Mihalotzy ..... 102
**Harrison's Gap, Ala.** Affair at, April 21, 1864.
Communication from ——— Johnston ..... 678
Reports of
Lubbers, John ..... 677
Osterhaus, Peter J ..... 676
**Harrold, Oliver.** Mentioned ..... 231
**Hart, William G.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Hartranft, John F.** Mentioned ..... 48
**Harvey, Addison.**
Mentioned ..... 358, 368–370, 378
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 381
**Harwell, M. B.** Mentioned ..... 386
**Hascall, Milo S.**
Itineraries of 3d Division, 23d Army Corps, Jan., Feb., 1864 ..... 50, 51
Mentioned ..... 50, 51, 410
Report of skirmish on the Sevierville Road, near Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 20, 1864 ..... 409
**Hastings,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 317, 318, 320
**Hawkins, Edwin R.** Mentioned ..... 333, 383, 384, 388
**Hawkins, Isaac R.**
Correspondence with Nathan B. Forrest ..... 545
Mentioned ..... 485, 493, 502, 503, 508–510, 540, 541, 543–546, 607, 612, 623
Reports of
Lexington, Tenn. Scout to, Jan. 11, 1864 ..... 69
Reynoldsburg, Tenn. Skirmish at, March 21, 1864 ..... 624
Union City, Tenn. Skirmish near, March 12, 1864 ..... 495
**Hawkins, John P.** Mentioned ..... 185
**Hawkins, Milt.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Hawkins, Samuel W.** Mentioned ..... 495, 543
**Hawkins, W. S.** Mentioned ..... 70, 255
**Hayes, Southey.** Mentioned ..... 157
**Haymond, Henry.** Mentioned ..... 419
**Hays, Martin.** Mentioned ..... 500
**Hays, William H.** Mentioned ..... 421, 464, 466
**H. Choteau,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 201, 205, 206
**Heath, Thomas T.** Mentioned ..... 129
**Heath, William H.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Hecker, Frederick.** Mentioned ..... 25
**Hefner, John P.** Mentioned ..... 500
**Heilman, William H.**
Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 432, 434
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 444

Page.

**Heinrichs, Gustav.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 258
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 278
**Heintzelman, Samuel P.**
Mentioned ..... 629, 631
Report of riot at Charleston, Coles County, Ill., March 28, 1864 ..... 629
**Helm, Clinton.**
Correspondence with Smith D. Atkins ..... 682
Mentioned ..... 684
**Helmer, Robert W.**
Mentioned ..... 510, 514, 543
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 545
**Henderson, R. J.** Mentioned ..... 478, 480
**Hennessey, John.** Mentioned ..... 569
**Henry, J. L.** Mentioned ..... 76
**Henry, John A.** Mentioned ..... 77
**Henry, William A.** Mentioned ..... 169, 503, 509
**Hensley, James M.** Mentioned ..... 126
**Hepburn, William P.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 194, 258–260, 266–269, 275, 276, 282, 283, 290–292, 296–298, 301, 302, 305, 306, 308, 314, 315, 581, 582
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 290
**Hernando, Miss.** Scout from Memphis, Tenn., toward, Jan. 3, 1864. Report of Lucius B. Skinner ..... 65
**Herndon, John W.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 641
**Herring, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 65
**Hess, Joseph C.**
Itinerary of 19th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Jan. 22–Feb. 8, 1864. Meridian Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 286
Mentioned ..... 171, 287, 289, 583
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including operations since Jan. 22, 1864 ..... 285, 287
**Hevell, Lewis.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Hibbets, Jefferson J.** Mentioned ..... 170
**Hickenlooper, Andrew.**
Mentioned ..... 177, 186, 209, 210
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 214
**Hicks, Robert J.** Mentioned ..... 362
**Hicks, Stephen G.**
Correspondence with
Brayman, Mason ..... 550
Buford, Abraham ..... 549, 550
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 547, 548
Sherman, William T ..... 579
Mentioned ..... 504–511, 513–515, 542, 551
Reports of
Mayfield, Ky.
Guerrilla raid on, March 10, 1864 ..... 493
Raid on, Feb. 22, 1864 ..... 417
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 546, 547, 549
**Higgins, Edward.** Mentioned ..... 403

Page.

**Higley, John H.**
Mentioned ... 478
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ... 480
**Hill, Charles M.** Mentioned ... 441
**Hill, John D.** Mentioned ... 538, 569, 570
**Hill, John E.** Mentioned ... 160
**Hill, Marcus.** Mentioned ... 640
**Hill, Roswell D.** Mentioned ... 672
**Hill, Roswell S.** Mentioned ... 145
**Hill, Sylvester G.** Mentioned ... 169
**Hills, William A.** Mentioned ... 683, 684
**Hillsborough, Miss.** Skirmishes at.
Feb. 6, 1863 * ... 164
Feb. 10, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Report of Winslow*, p. 250.
**Hindman, Thomas C.**
Correspondence with Alexander P. Stewart ... 477
Mentioned ... 15, 477, 478
**Hine, Robert J.**
Correspondence with Smith D. Atkins ... 681
Mentioned ... 680
**Hobson, Edward H.**
Itinerary of 5th Division, 23d Army Corps, April, 1864 ... 54
Mentioned ... 54, 647
Reports of
Cumberland River, Ky.
Affair on the, Jan. 27, 1864 ... 152
Skirmish on the, March 19, 1864 ... 624
Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March 28–April 16, 1864 ... 645, 646
New Hope, Ky. Affair at, March 28, 1864 ... 629
Obey's River, Tenn. Skirmish on the, March 28, 1864 ... 644
**Hodge, George B.** Mentioned ... 649
**Hodges, John B.** Mentioned ... 102
**Hoel, William R.** Mentioned ... 397
**Hogan, Frank.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ... 536
**Holahan, Amos J.**
Mentioned ... 171, 269, 287
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 287
**Holladay, J. B.** Mentioned ... 650
**Holland, John M.** Mentioned ... 438
**Holliday, Robert M.** Mentioned ... 202
**Hollopeter, John L.**
Correspondence with Charles R. Case ... 448
Mentioned ... 446, 448
**Holly Springs, Miss.** Skirmishes at.
Feb. 12, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Report of McCrillis*, p. 303.
April 17, 1864 * ... 6
**Holmes, Shepley R.** Mentioned ... 324
**Holmes, T.** Mentioned ... 158
**Holt, H. C.** Mentioned ... 334

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Hood, John B.**
Assignment to command ..... 3
Mentioned ..... 15, 20, 68, 81, 93
**Hooker, Joseph.**
Assignment to command ..... 5
Itinerary of 20th Army Corps, April, 1864 ..... 32
Mentioned ..... 8, 14, 18, 19, 28, 32
**Hopkins, W. M.** Mentioned ..... 413
**Hopper, Nancy M.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 533
**Horton, Charles C.** Mentioned ..... 290, 298, 300
**Hosmer, Addison A.** Report of riot at Charleston, Coles County, Ill., March 28, 1864 ..... 635
**Hotaling, John R.** Mentioned ..... 129
**Hotchkiss, T. R.** Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864. 483
**Hotchkiss, William A.** Mentioned ..... 455
**Houck, James.** Mentioned ..... 643
**Houck, James M.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Houlka Swamp, near Houston, Miss.** Skirmish in the, Feb. 17, 1864. See *Meridian Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Report of Smith*, p. 256.
**House, William T.**
Mentioned ..... 497
Report of skirmish at Claysville, Ala., March 14, 1864 ..... 498
**Houser, Abraham.** Mentioned ..... 682
**Houston, Miss.** Skirmishes near.
Feb. 17, 1864. See *Houlka Swamp, near Houston, Miss. Skirmish in the, Feb. 17, 1864.*
Feb. 19, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
McBath, William R. McCrillis, La Fayette. Smith, William Sooy.
**Hovey, Alvin P.**
Itinerary of 1st Division, 23d Army Corps, April, 1864 ..... 53
Mentioned ..... 53
**Hovis, L. B.** Mentioned ..... 334
**Howard, ———.** Mentioned ..... 98
**Howard, Oliver O.**
Assignment to command ..... 5
Itineraries of 11th Army Corps, Jan.–March, 1864 ..... 24–26
Mentioned ..... 18–20, 22, 24–26, 32
Resumes command of 11th Army Corps ..... 3
**Howe, James H.**
Itinerary of 2d Brigade, 4th Division, 16th Army Corps. Meridian Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 207
Mentioned ..... 169, 191, 201, 203–208, 503, 509, 575
**Howe, John H.**
Mentioned ..... 170, 229
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 234
**Howe, Oscar P.** Mentioned ..... 284
**Howell, Philip F.** For correspondence as A. A. A. G., see *Alfred W. Ellet.*
**Howgate, Henry W.** Mentioned ..... 446–448, 462
**Hubbard, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 109
**Hubbard, Lucius F.** Mentioned ..... 168
**Hubbard, R. J.** Mentioned ..... 622

Page.
**Hudson, Charles T.** Mentioned ..... 408, 474, 475
**Hudsonville, Miss.** Affair near, Feb. 25, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Report of Waring*, p. 269.
**Hughes, Samuel T.** Mentioned ..... 669
**Hughs, John M.**
Mentioned ..... 156, 416, 485, 494, 495, 499, 500, 645, 671
Report of operations in Middle Tennessee, Jan. 1–April 18, 1864 ..... 55
**Hulse, ———.** Mentioned ..... 687
**Humes, Andrew R.** Mentioned ..... 414
**Humes, William Y. C.**
Correspondence with Joseph E. Johnston ..... 692
Mentioned ..... 489, 658, 688, 691
Reports of reconnaissance from Ringgold toward Tunnel Hill, Ga., April 29, 1864 ..... 691, 692
**Hunt, Surgeon.** Mentioned ..... 103
**Hunter, Alexander M.** Mentioned ..... 538, 566–569
**Hunter, Alfred G.** Mentioned ..... 467
**Hunter, James A.** Mentioned ..... 102
**Hurd, Orrin D.**
Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 432, 434
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 439
**Hurlbut, Stephen A.**
Correspondence with
Booth, Lionel F. ..... 556
Brayman, Mason ..... 504, 506, 517, 551
Sherman, William T ..... 179
Veatch, James C ..... 579
Itinerary of 16th Army Corps, Jan. 26–March 10, 1864. Meridian Expedition, etc ..... 195
Mentioned ..... 168, 171, 172, 174–180, 182, 186–191, 200, 202, 207, 209–211, 216, 219, 222, 232, 249, 250, 255, 265, 330, 341, 343, 365, 506, 508, 514, 516–518, 551, 563, 573, 576, 577, 581, 586–588, 592
Relieved from command of 16th Army Corps ..... 6
Reports of
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 194
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 554, 555
**Hurst, Fielding.** Mentioned ..... 581, 582, 585, 592, 602, 608, 612, 623
**Hurt, Charles H.** Mentioned ..... 222
**Huston, George.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 536
**Hutchason, J. B.** Mentioned ..... 640, 641
**Hutchinson, ———.** Mentioned ..... 397, 398
**Illinois Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **Chicago Board of Trade**, 35, 37; **Perkins'**,* 257. *Regiments:* **1st** (*Batteries*), **A**, 129; **C**, 12, 30; **E**, 168, 169; **H**, 129; **K**, 171, 290, 292, 301, 302, 304, 308, 315; **2d** (*Batteries*), **D**, 169, 191, 195, 196, 203, 204, 207, 575; **F**, 171, 193; **G**, 503, 509; **H**, I, 11.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 113, 171, 193, 261–266, 268–273, 279, 281, 284, 288, 289; **3d**, 172, 194, 214, 261, 295, 303–308, 310, 314; **4th**, 168, 170, 211, 214, 227; **5th**, 171, 193, 249; **6th**, 65, 171, 194, 258, 261, 290–295, 300, 308; **7th**, 116, 171, 194, 258, 261, 290–296; **9th**, 72, 171, 194, 258, 261, 290–294, 297, 300, 302; **11th**, 171, 193, 210, 211, 214, 248–250; **14th**, 93, 137, 148; **16th**, 57, 58.

* Howitzer battery attached to 9th Illinois Cavalry.

**Illinois Troops.** Mentioned—Continued.

Infantry—*Regiments:* **8th**, 170, 192, 236; **9th**, 119, 122, 669, 670; **10th**, 11, 30; **11th**, 172, 178, 183, 184, 194, 213, 316–318, 320, 321, 323–325, 331, 382, 383, 385, 386, 390; **14th**, 171, 193, 214, 245, 246; **15th**, 171, 193, 214, 221, 238, 245–247; **16th**, 30, 420; **17th**, 170, 192, 232; **19th**, 419, 452–454; **20th**, 170, 192, 214, 229–232, 236; **21st**, 11, 16, 24; **22d**, 11; **24th**, 420; **27th**, 11; **29th**, 213, 226; **30th**, 170, 192, 214; **31st**, 24, 170, 192, 214, 229–233, 235–237; **32d**, 171, 193, 214; **36th**, 11; **38th**, 16, 24, 407, 408; **40th**, 507; **41st**, 171, 193, 214, 630, 631; **42d**, **44th**, 11; **45th**, 170, 192, 214, 227–231, 233–236; **47th**, 168; **49th**, 169, 191, 200; **51st**, 11; **53d**, 171, 193, 214, 241–243; **54th**, 630–637; **55th**, 486, 664; **58th**, 169, 191, 200, 236; **59th**, 11, 436; **60th**. 16, 420, 457–460, 478; **75th**, 419, 422, 432–437, 440, 442; **76th**, 171, 193, 245, 246; **78th**, 420, 661, 662; **80th**, 419, 422, 432–434, 436-438, 474; **81st**, 213, 214, 226; **84th**, 419, 422, 432–436, 438, 439; **85th**, **86th**, 420, 458, 460, 461; **92d**, 40, 122–124, 679–684; **93d**, 419, 422, 467, 468; **95th**, 214; **96th**, 419, 422; **98th**, 38, 123–125, 421; **101st**, 644; **102d**, 652; **103d**, 419, 422, 467, 468; **107th**, 150, 160; **109th**, 385, 386, 390; **113th**, 698; **114th**, 168, **115th**, 419, 422; **117th**, **119th**, 169, 191, 200; **122d**, 494, 548, 549, 551–553; **124th**, 170, 192, 228–230, 234–237; **125th**, 420, 459.

**Indiana Troops.** Mentioned.

Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **3d**, 169; **5th**, 419, 422, 427, 443, 444, 463; **6th**, 169; **9th**, 169, 191, 200; **13th**, 11; **14th**, 169; **18th**, 81, 82, 86, 87, 89, 136, 141–143, 146, 147; **19th**, 421.

Cavalry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 34, 87, 89, 90, 140, 141, 144, 145, 391, 392; **3d**, 36, 37, 40, 52, 70, 71, 409, 410, 496, 670; **4th**, 34, 86, 89, 90, 136, 137, 140, 141, 143–145, 147, 161; **6th**, 58, 95–97; **7th**, 113, 171, 193, 258, 263–265, 267–277, 281, 287, 304, 307, 582–585; **8th**,* 9, 10, 14, 15, 65, 66, 421, 451, 453, 454, 488–490.

Infantry—*Regiments:* **10th** 11, 421, 449; **12th**, 419, 422, 467. 468; **15th**, 11; **17th**, 11, 35, 36; **19th**, 667; **22d**, 11; **23d**, 171, 193; **25th**, 169, 195, 203, 204, 207, 575; **27th**, 11, 27, 500; **30th**, 11, 16, 419, 422, 432–434, 436, 439, 440, 442; **31st**, 11, 34, 140; **32d**, 214; **33d**, 11, 25, 26; **36th**, 419, 422, 432–434, 436, 440, 441; **37th**, 11, 16, 420; **38th**, 29; **40th**, 11; **42d**, 11, 29, 31; **44th**, 11, 23; **47th**, 631; **51st**, 11; **52d**, 169, 191, 200; **53d**, 171, 193, 214, 248; **57th**, **58th**, 11; **65th**, 496, 497; **72d**, 35, 123, 125, 126, 172, 194, 255, 304, 305, 307–309, 312, 315; **73d**, 658; **74th**, 421; **75th**, 30; **82d**, 420, 462–467; **84th**, 419, 422; **85th**, 25, 26; **87th**, 420; **88th**. 419, 452–454; **89th**, 169, 191, 200; **91st**, 127, 411; **93d**, 168; **97th**, **99th**, 419, 422, 467, 468; **100th**, 667; **101st**, 30.

**Indian Creek, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Fain's Island, etc. Skirmishes at, Jan.* 28, 1864.

**Indian Creek, Va.** Skirmish on. See *Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, Va. Skirmishes at, on Indian Creek, and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb.* 22, 1864.

**Inge, W. M.** Mentioned ..... 333

**Ingersoll, Orton.** Mentioned ..... 325

**Ingerton, William H.** Mentioned ..... 259, 289, 308

For correspondence as A. A. A. G., see *William Sooy Smith.*

**Ingraham, Lewis.** Mentioned ..... 566

**Ingram, W. B.** Mentioned ..... 121, 123

**Inman, ———.** Mentioned ..... 111

**Innes, William P.** Mentioned ..... 14

**Intercourse.** See *Trade and Intercourse.*

**Iowa, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 505

* Formerly 39th Indiana Infantry.

Page.

**Iowa Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **2d**, 169.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 171, 194, 258, 261, 290–294, 298–301, 307, 581; **4th**, 171, 190, 193, 249–251, 694, 698, 700; **5th**, 11, 35–37, 39, 40; **9th**, 695.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **3d**, 171, 193, 214, 241–243; **4th**, 497; **8th**, 169; **9th**, 497; **11th**, 170, 192, 214, 224; **12th**, 169; **13th**, 170, 192, 214; **14th**, 169, 191, 200; **15th**, 170, 192, 214, 224; **16th**, 170, 192, 214, 225; **26th**, 677, 678; **27th**, 169, 191, 200; **31st**, 497, 498; **32d**, 169, 191, 200; **35th**, 169.

**Ireland, David.**
Mentioned ..... 27–29, 32
Reports of affair at Caperton's Ferry, Ala., March 29, 1864 ..... 651

**Irvine, William N.** Mentioned ..... 683

**Island Ford, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Fain's Island, etc. Skirmishes at, Jan.* 28, 1864.

**Island No. 10, Mississippi River.**
Affair near, March 6, 1864. Report of Robert M. Ekings ..... 491
Expedition from, etc. See *Riley's Landing, Tenn. Expedition from Island No.* 10 *to, Feb.* 17, 1864.
Scout from. See *New Madrid, Mo. Scout from Island No.* 10, *Tenn., to, March* 18, 1864.

**Island No. 76, Mississippi River.** Skirmish at, Jan. 20, 1864* ..... 2

**Issaquena County, Miss.** Skirmish in. See *Langley's Plantation, Issaquena County, Miss. Skirmish at, March* 22, 1864.

**Itineraries.** See *Army Corps; Cavalry Corps;* and *Engineer Troops.* Also
*Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb.* 22–27, 1864.
*Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March* 28–*April* 16, 1864.
*Leet's Tan-yard, Ga. Skirmish at, March* 5, 1864.
*Meridian, Miss., Expedition, Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864.
*Ripley, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April* 30–*May* 9, 1864, *and skirmish* (*May* 2) *at Bolivar, Tenn.*
*Sunnyside Landing, Ark. Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to, Jan.* 10–16, 1864.
*Yazoo River, Miss. Expedition up the, April* 19–23, 1864, *with skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel.*

**Iverson, Alfred.** Report of affair at Subligna, Ga., Jan. 22, 1864 ..... 112

**Ives, Samuel S.**
Mentioned ..... 333, 626
Report of skirmish near Florence, Ala., April 12, 1864 ..... 662

**Ivey's Hill, or Farm, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 22, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Reports of*
Browne, Thomas M. Holahan, Amos J. Waring, George E., jr.
Hepburn, William P. Smith, William Sooy.

**Jack, William.** Mentioned ..... 115

**Jackson [?], ———.** Mentioned ..... 685

**Jackson, James.** (Colonel.)
Mentioned ..... 333, 626, 662
Report of skirmish near Moulton, Ala., March 21, 1864 ..... 626

**Jackson, James.** (Sergeant.) Mentioned ..... 454

**Jackson, John.** Mentioned ..... 145

**Jackson, John C.** Mentioned ..... 355

**Jackson, J. P., U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 402

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Jackson, William H.**
Correspondence with Leonidas Polk ..... 343
Mentioned ... 174, 188, 228, 319, 333, 341-343, 358, 363-369, 374-377, 380, 390, 625, 671
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864 ..... 369
**Jackson, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 5, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Adams, Wirt. McPherson, James B. Winslow, Edward F.
Lee, Stephen D. Rose, Lucius M.
**James, Harry H.** Mentioned ..... 95
**Jaquess, James F.** Mentioned ..... 406
**Jarvis, William L.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Jeffers, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Jefferson, John W.** Mentioned ..... 168
**Jeffries, ———.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Jehu, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 194
**Jenkins, Jeremiah W.** Report of skirmish at Claysville, Ala., March 14, 1864. 497
**Jenkins, John.** Mentioned ..... 634, 635
**Jenkins, Micah.** Mentioned ..... 496
**Jenks, Melville.** Mentioned ..... 569
**Jenney, William L. B.** Mentioned ..... 128
**Jepson, Theodore.**
Correspondence with Willis S. Bledsoe ..... 98
Mentioned ..... 97, 98, 101
**Jessup, William.** Reports of affair near Kelly's Plantation, Sulphur Springs Road, Ala., April 11, 1864 ..... 660, 661
**J. H. Lacey, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 317, 320
**Jobling, Fryar.** Mentioned ..... 438
**John Raines, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 398
**John Rowe, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 623
**Johnson, Andrew.** Mentioned ..... 55
**Johnson, Andrew W.** Mentioned ..... 159
**Johnson, Bushrod R.** Mentioned ..... 81, 161, 496
**Johnson, David.** Mentioned ..... 640, 641
**Johnson, Richard W.**
Itineraries of 1st Division, 14th Army Corps, Jan.-April, 1864 ..... 29-31
Mentioned ..... 9-11, 14, 15, 29-31, 419, 421, 424, 427, 453-457, 459, 461, 467
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22-27, 1864 ..... 451
**Johnson, Samuel F.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Johnson, Thomas.** Report of operations in Eastern Kentucky, March 28-April 16, 1864 ..... 649
**Johnson, William A.**
Mentioned ..... 7, 35, 36, 119-121, 627, 685
Report of skirmish near Moulton, Ala., March 21, 1864 ..... 626
**Johnston, ———.**
Correspondence with Officer Commanding at Vienna, Ala. ..... 678
Mentioned ..... 677, 678
**Johnston, Henry S.** Mentioned ..... 383, 386
**Johnston, Joseph E.**
Correspondence with William Y. C. Humes ..... 692
Mentioned ..... 7-10, 14, 15, 18, 20, 47, 56, 120, 173, 453, 664, 692
Reports of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22-27, 1864 ..... 476
**Jolly, John H.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Jonas, John.** Mentioned ..... 441
**Jones, Charles C.** Mentioned ..... 171

Page.
**Jones, Dudley W.**
Mentioned ..... 329, 333, 383, 653
Report of operations against Unionists in Marion County, Ala., April 19, 1864 ..... 671
**Jones, Newton.** Mentioned ..... 405
**Jones, Reuben.** Mentioned ..... 540
**Jones, Samuel.**
Mentioned ..... 58, 657
Relieved from command of Trans-Alleghany or Western Department of Virginia ..... 4
**Jones, Theodore.** Mentioned ..... 128
**Jones, William.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Jones, William E.**
Mentioned ..... 57, 59–61, 64, 68, 413–415
Reports of
Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, Va. Skirmishes at, on Indian Creek, and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864 ..... 412
Jonesville, Va. Action at, Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 59
**Jones County, Miss.** Operations in, March 14, 1864. Report of Leonidas Polk. 499
**Jonesville, Va.**
Action at, Jan. 3, 1864.
Communication from War Department, C. S ..... 60
Reports of
Claiborne, James R ..... 62
Cook, Alphonso F ..... 60
Jones, William E ..... 59
Lemert, Wilson C ..... 58
Longstreet, James ..... 59
Pridemore, Auburn L ..... 64
Thompson, John B ..... 61
Willcox, Orlando B ..... 57
Skirmishes near, Jan. 28–29, 1864. Reports of S. Palace Love ..... 153–155
**Jordan, Thomas J.**
Mentioned ..... 86, 87
Report of operations about Dandridge, Tenn., including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and at Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 87
**Joyner, J. T.** Mentioned ..... 385
**J. P. Jackson, U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 402
**Judah, Henry M.**
Correspondence with Jacob D. Cox ..... 151
Itineraries of 2d Division, 23d Army Corps, Jan.–April, 1864 ..... 49, 51–53
Mentioned ..... 49, 51–53
**Juliet, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 183
**Kammerling, Gustave.**
Itinerary of 2d Brigade, 3d Divison, 14th Army Corps, Jan., 1864 ..... 30
Mentioned ..... 30, 420
**Kansas Troops.** Mentioned.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **7th**, 262.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **1st**, 77, 78, 674; **8th**, 11, 23.
**Kargé, Joseph.**
Mentioned ..... 113, 171, 262–264, 272, 693, 696, 699, 701, 702
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including operations since Jan. 22, 1864 ..... 280, 282

Page.
**Keislar, Thomas R.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Keller, John P.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Kelley's Ford, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Fain's Island, etc. Skirmishes at, Jan.* 28, 1864.
**Kelley's Ford and McNutt's Bridge, Tenn.** Skirmishes at, Jan. 27, 1864. See *Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, Jan.* 26–28, 1864. *Reports of*
Campbell, Archibald P. Lilly, Eli. Sturgis, Samuel D.
La Grange, Oscar H. McCook, Edward M.
**Kellogg, Sanford C.** For correspondence as A. D. C., see *George H. Thomas.*
**Kelly, John H.** Mentioned ..... 438, 658, 688
**Kelly's Plantation, Sulphur Springs Road, Ala.** Affair near, April 11, 1864. Reports of William Jessup ..... 660, 661
**Kelsey, James E.** Mentioned ..... 659
**Kelton, John C.** Mentioned ..... 131
**Kemper, Hermann.** Mentioned ..... 278, 279
**Kennedy, George R.** Mentioned ..... 273, 276
**Kennedy, John.** Mentioned ..... 566–568
**Kennedy, Leslie.** Mentioned ..... 102
**Kenner, P. M.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Kennett, L. M.,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 553, 574
**Kenton,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 201
**Kentucky.**
Forrest's Expedition into. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March* 16–*April* 14, 1864.
Operations in. See *Summary,* pp. 1–6.
**Kentucky, Eastern.** See *Eastern Kentucky.*
**Kentucky Troops.** Mentioned. (Confederate.)
Cavalry—*Battalions:* **3d Rifles,** 649. *Regiments:* **12th,** 350, 352, 353, 355; **14th** [?], 392.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **3d, 7th, 8th,** 333, 549; **11th,*** 58, 64.
**Kentucky Troops.** Mentioned. (Union.)
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **3d,** 16, 40, 421, 470, 644; **3d,** 11, 255, 680, 689, 690; **4th,** 11; **5th,** 172, 194, 255, 285, 295, 304–311; **6th,** 11; **7th,** 90, 143, 145; **12th,** 91; **13th,** 624; **16th,** 548.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **4th,** 11; **8th,** 16, 419, 422; **10th,** 421; **13th,** 151, 152, 160; **14th,** 51, 394, 395, 646–650; **15th** 30; **18th, 21st,** 11; **23d,** 11, 23; **28th,** 9, 11, 15, 16, 36, 37, 109, 255, 421; **34th,** 411; **39th,** 67, 394, 395, 648, 650; **40th,** 645; **45th,** 646, 650, 687.
**Kenyon, Nathaniel C.** Mentioned ..... 325
**Kern, Louis.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Kerr, Lucien H.** Mentioned ..... 171, 249, 251
**Kersey, Silas H.** Mentioned ..... 430
**Kessler, John G.** Mentioned ..... 405
**Ketner, James.** Report of scout to Baldwin's Ferry, Big Black River, Miss., Jan. 14, 1864 ..... 77
**Keyes, F. W.** Mentioned ..... 374
**Kilborn, Lawson S.** Mentioned ..... 303, 309
**Kilgour, William M.**
Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 432, 434
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 437
**Killed and Wounded.** See *Confederate Troops* and *Union Troops. Returns of Casualties.*

*Also called 10th Kentucky Mounted Rifles; afterward 13th Kentucky Cavalry.

Page.

**Kilpatrick, Judson.**
Itinerary of 3d Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, April, 1864... 40
Mentioned ..... 19, 20, 32, 40, 690, 691
Reports of
Taylor's Ridge, near Ringgold, Ga. Attack on Union pickets on, April 27, 1864 ..... 687
Tunnel Hill, Ga. Reconnaissance from Ringgold toward, April 29, 1864 ..... 688
**Kimball, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 639, 640, 642
**Kimble, Thomas V.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Kimble, William.** Mentioned ..... 153
**Kimbrough's Cross-Roads, Tenn.** Skirmish at, Jan. 16, 1864. See *Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, etc., Jan.* 16–17, 1864.
**Kimmel, David H.** Mentioned ..... 111, 114, 149
**King, Houston.** Mentioned ..... 333, 373
**King, John F.** Mentioned ..... 168
**King, John H.** Mentioned ..... 14, 30, 419, 451, 452, 455, 460
**King, Lucian.** Mentioned ..... 552
**King, William.** Mentioned ..... 67
**Kingery, William H.** Mentioned ..... 308
**Kingston, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 21
**Kinney, Thomas J.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Kirby, Isaac M.** Mentioned ..... 423
**Kirkbride, Andrew B.**
Mentioned ..... 172, 303–305, 310
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 306
**Kise, William C.** Mentioned ..... 42, 127
**Klein, Robert.**
Mentioned ..... 409, 410
Reports of
Little Tennessee River, Tenn. Expedition from Maryville up the, Jan. 11–12, 1864 ..... 70
Sevierville Road. Skirmish on, near Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 20, 1864.. 410
**Kneeland, Gilbert H.** Mentioned ..... 405
**Knefler, Frederick.** Mentioned ..... 656
**Kniffin, Gilbert C.** Mentioned ..... 428, 472
**Knipe, Joseph F.** Mentioned ..... 100
**Knispel, Charles P.** Mentioned ..... 278
**Knoxville, Tenn.**
Capture of Union pickets near. See *Love's Hill, near Knoxville, Tenn.*
Expedition from. See *Flat Creek, Tenn. Expedition from Knoxville to, Feb.* 1, 1864.
Scout near, Feb. 13, 1864. Reports of
Sherwood, Isaac R ..... 392
Smith, Gustavus F ..... 392
Skirmishes near.
Jan. 26, 1864* ..... 2
Jan. 27, 1864. Reports of
Chapin, Marshal W ..... 150
Estes, Benjamin P ..... 151
Wheeler, William W ..... 152
Feb. 20, 1864. See *Sevierville Road, near Knoxville, Tenn. Skirmish on, Feb.* 20, 1864.

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Kossak, William.** Mentioned ..... 209
**Kraft, Bernhard.** Mentioned ..... 70
**Krumer, Adam S.** Mentioned ..... 440
**Krzyzanowski, Wladimir.** Mentioned ..... 25
**Kuhn, John H.**
Mentioned ..... 671, 685
Reports of
Decatur, Ala. Skirmishes near, April 13, 1864 ..... 669
Flint River, Ala. Affair at, April 17, 1864 ..... 670
**Lacey, Francis H.** Mentioned ..... 116
**Lacey, J. H., Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 317, 320
**La Fayette, Ga.**
Reconnaissance from Rossville to, April 11–13, 1864. Report of Carter Van Vleck ..... 661
Scout from Ringgold to, April 24–25, 1864. Report of Charles C. Smith ..... 685
**La Grange, Oscar H.**
Mentioned ..... 18, 33–35, 66, 67, 71, 81, 82, 84–86, 89, 90, 111, 114, 115, 132–143, 145, 146, 149
Reports of
Dandridge, Tenn.
Operations about, including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 89, 90
Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 143, 145
Lawrence's Mill, Tenn. Skirmish at, Jan. 5, 1864 ..... 66
Mossy Creek, Tenn. Skirmishes near.
Jan. 10, 1864 ..... 67
Jan. 12, 1864 ..... 71
Newport, Tenn. Skirmish near, Jan. 23, 1864 ..... 115
Waterhouse's Mill and Boiling Springs, Tenn. Skirmishes at, April 19–20, 1864 ..... 673
**La Grange, Wallace W.** Mentioned ..... 85, 91
**La Grange, Tenn.**
Scout from, Jan. 23, 1864. See *Ripley, Miss. Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Jan.* 23, 1864.
Skirmishes at.
Jan. 2, 1864 * ..... 1
Jan. 25, 1864 * ..... 2
Skirmish near, Feb. 2, 1864. Report of John McGuirk ..... 163
**Lake, Peter.** Mentioned ..... 566
**Lamberg, Carl A.** Reports of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 566, 567
**Lamon, James.** Mentioned ..... 13
**Langen, Edward.**
Mentioned ..... 277, 279, 280
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including operations since Jan. 22, 1864 ..... 277
**Langley's Plantation, Issaquena County, Miss.** Skirmish at, March 22, 1864. Report of William S. Aken ..... 627
**Langstone, Lewis.** Mentioned ..... 441
**Lannom, W. D.** Mentioned ..... 607
**Larkin, Victor C.** Mentioned ..... 575

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Larkin's Landing, Ala.** Expedition from. See *Gourd Neck and Guntersville, Ala. Expedition from Larkin's Landing to, March 2–3, 1864.*
**Larkinsville, Ala.** Affair near, Feb. 14, 1864.
Communication from John C. Brown ..... 394
Report of Morgan L. Smith ..... 393
**Latham, Ephraim.** Mentioned ..... 393
**Lauderdale Springs, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 16, 1864 * ..... 165
**Laurel Creek, Wayne County, W. Va.** Skirmish at, Feb, 15, 1864.
Congratulatory Orders. Burbridge ..... 395
Report of George W. Gallup ..... 394
**Lawler, John T.** Mentioned ..... 557
**Lawrence, William Hudson.**
Correspondence with Abraham Buford ..... 553
Mentioned ..... 503, 508, 511, 514, 574
Reports of
Clinton, Ky. Guerrilla raid on, March 10, 1864 ..... 493
Clinton and Moscow, Ky. Scout from Columbus to, March 30, 1864 ..... 652
Columbus, Ky. Attack on Union pickets at, March 6, 1864 ..... 492
Fancy Farms, Ky. Affair at, March 22, 1864 ..... 628
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 552–554
**Lawrence's Mill, Tenn.** Skirmish at, Jan. 5, 1864. Report of Oscar H. La Grange ..... 66
**Lawton, Alexander R.** For correspondence, etc., see *Quartermaster-General's Office, C. S. A.*
**Lawver, Isar C.** For correspondence as Adjutant, see *Smith D. Atkins.*
**Lay, James W.** Mentioned ..... 308
**Layman, David M.** Mentioned ..... 463
**Leach, James G.** Mentioned ..... 157
**Leaming, Mack J.**
Mentioned ..... 595
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 559
**Leavell, John.** Mentioned ..... 65
**Lee, Robert E.** Mentioned ..... 19, 47
**Lee, Shadrach.** Mentioned ..... 126
**Lee, Stephen D.**
Correspondence with
Buck, ——— ..... 359
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 617, 618
Maxwell, W. L ..... 360
Polk, Leonidas ..... 340, 341
Washburn, Cadwallader C ..... 587, 599, 603,
Mentioned ..... 174, 175, 188, 199, 209, 210, 227, 228, 256, 259, 261, 333, 334, 336–338, 341–343, 346, 349, 352, 356, 369–372, 374, 376, 379–382, 390, 555, 586, 588, 590, 592, 595, 600, 601, 612, 613, 620, 625, 687
Reports of
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 357–365
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 606
**Lee's House, on Cornersville Pike, Tenn.** Affair at, Jan. 28, 1864. Report of George W. Overmyer ..... 153

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Leet's Tan-yard, Ga.** Skirmish at, March 5, 1864.
Itinerary of Joseph Wheeler. (Cavalry Corps, Army of Tennessee) ..... 490
Reports of
Baird, Absalom ..... 488, 489
Harrison, Thomas J ..... 489
**Le Fever, Benjamin F.** Mentioned ..... 419, 422
**Leforgee, N. P.** Mentioned ..... 650
**Leggett, Mortimer D.**
Correspondence with James B. McPherson ..... 228
Itinerary of 3d Division, 17th Army Corps. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 226
Mentioned ..... 170, 172, 192, 209–215, 218, 219, 221, 226, 232, 239, 555
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 225
**Leigh, Ben.** Mentioned ..... 552
**Lemert, Wilson C.**
Mentioned ..... 57
Report of action at Jonesville, Va., Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 58
**Leonard, ———.** Mentioned ..... 673
**Lesslie, Joseph P.** Mentioned ..... 91, 137, 140, 144, 145
**Lester, Daniel.** Mentioned ..... 519
**Lewis, ———.** Mentioned ..... 404
**Lewis, James.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 537
**Lewis, Joseph H.** Mentioned ..... 478
**Lewis, R. A.** Mentioned ..... 404
**Lexington, Tenn.** Scout to, Jan. 11, 1864. Report of Isaac R. Hawkins ..... 69
**L'Hommedieu, Samuel.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Liberty No. 2, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 505, 573, 574
**Lick, James.** Mentioned ..... 206
**Licking River, Ky.** See *Half Mountain, Ky.*
**Light, Miles B.** Mentioned ..... 683
**Lilly, Eli.**
Mentioned ..... 81, 84, 141
Report of operations about Dandridge, Tenn., Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 146
**Lincoln, Abraham.** Mentioned ..... 7, 618, 638, 643
**Lincoln, William.** Mentioned ..... 540
**Lippett, Henry.** Mentioned ..... 569, 570
**Litterell, Ewing.** Mentioned ..... 412
**Litterell, William.** Mentioned ..... 412
**Little Tennessee River, Tenn.** Expedition from Maryville up the, Jan. 11–12, 1864. Report of Robert Klein ..... 70
**Liverpool, Miss.** Skirmish at, March 3, 1864* ..... 165
**Liverpool Heights, Yazoo River, Miss.**
Action at, Feb. 3, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Coates, James H. Polk, Leonidas. Sherman, William T.
Lee, Stephen D. Ross, Lawrence S.
Skirmish opposite, Feb. 4, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of Coates*, pp. 317, 321; *Ross*, p. 389.
**Livingston, Miss.** Skirmish at, March 27, 1864* ..... 5
**L. M. Kennett, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 553, 574
**Locher, Michael H.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Locke, S., Miss.** Mentioned ..... 103, 104

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Logan, John A.**
Mentioned ..... 14, 120, 128, 181, 487, 676, 677
Report of expedition from Scottsborough, Ala., toward Rome, Ga., Jan. 25-Feb. 5, 1864 ..... 127
**Logan, Nicholas D.** Mentioned ..... 562
**Logwood, Thomas H.** Mentioned ..... 384, 385
**Long, ———.** Mentioned ..... 652
**Long, Eli.**
Correspondence with George H. Thomas ..... 469
Itineraries of 2d Brigade, 2d Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, Jan., Feb., 1864 ..... 36, 38
Mentioned .... 9–11, 14, 15, 35, 36, 38–40, 421, 423–428, 430–433, 439, 442, 450, 474, 475
Reports of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 469–473
**Longstreet, James.**
Mentioned ..... 8, 14, 15, 18, 22, 33, 41, 43, 45–47, 69, 78, 83, 94, 130, 131, 134, 138, 496, 656, 657
Reports of
Big Springs, near Tazewell, Tenn. Skirmish at, Jan. 19, 1864 ..... 97
Dandridge, Tenn.
Operations about, including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 93
Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 149, 150
Jonesville, Va. Action at, Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 59
Wilsonville, Tenn. Capture of forage wagons near, Jan. 22, 1864 ..... 112
Resumes command of the Department of East Tennessee ..... 4
**Lookout**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 21
**Lookout Valley, Tenn.**
Reconnaissance from. See *McLemore's Cove, Ga. Reconnaissance from Lookout Valley, Tenn., to, March 30–April 1, 1864.*
Scout from. See *Deer Head Cove, Ga. Scout from Lookout Valley to, March 29–31, 1864.*
**Loring, William W.** Mentioned ..... 19, 20, 174, 175, 210, 332, 334, 335, 357, 359, 360, 366, 378, 380, 555
**Losses in Action.** See *Confederate Troops* and *Union Troops. Returns of Casualties.*
**Lott, William B.** Mentioned ..... 239–241
**Louisiana Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Battalions:* **Pointe Coupeé** (*Batteries*), **A**, 333.
Cavalry—*Battalions:* **9th**, 333. *Companies:* **Orleans Light Horse**, 332; **Webb's**, 333.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **12th**, 333.
**Louisville, U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 318, 505
**Louisville, Tenn.** Affair at, March 27, 1864. Report of Robert O. Selfridge ..... 628
**Loure, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 494
**Louthain, George W.** Mentioned ..... 206
**Love, S. Palace.**
Mentioned ..... 95
Reports of skirmishes near Jonesville, Va., Jan. 28–29, 1864 ..... 153–155
**Love's Hill, near Knoxville, Tenn.** Capture of Union pickets at, Jan. 24, 1864. Report of William Cross ..... 126
**Low, Sam.** Mentioned ..... 149
**Lowe, Samuel A.** Mentioned ..... 168
**Lowe, William.** Mentioned ..... 657

Page.
**Loweree, John.** Mentioned ..... 659, 660
**Lowrey, Mark P.**
Correspondence with James H. Dunklin ..... 481
Mentioned ..... 481
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22-27, 1864 ..... 481
**Lowry, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Lubbers, John.**
Mentioned ..... 676, 677
Report of affair at Harrison's Gap, Ala., April 21, 1864 ..... 677
**Lucas, J. M.** Mentioned ..... 385
**Lucas, Samuel T.** Mentioned ..... 306-308, 314
**Lusk, William H.** Mentioned ..... 674, 675
**Lynch, John.** Mentioned ..... 295
**Lynch, William F.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Lyon, ———.** Mentioned ..... 102
**Mabry, Hinchie P.** Mentioned ..... 333, 383, 387, 388, 674
**McAfee, A. L.** Mentioned ..... 650
**McArthur, John.**
Correspondence with
Brewster, Joseph W ..... 320
Coates, James H ..... 330
Itinerary of expedition from Vicksburg up the Yazoo River, Miss., April 19-23, 1864 ..... 673
Mentioned ..... 157-159, 214, 322, 323, 396
**McBath, William R.** Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864 ..... 311
**McBee, J. T.** Mentioned ..... 375, 377, 378
**McCallum, Daniel C.** Mentioned ..... 130
**McClure, Alexander W.** Mentioned ..... 261
**McClure, John D.** Mentioned ..... 168
**McClure, Thomas W.** Mentioned ..... 538, 569, 570
**McConnell, Henry K.**
Mentioned ..... 8, 162, 163
Report of expedition from Gallatin to Cumberland Mountains, Tenn., Jan. 28-Feb. 8, 1864 ..... 155
**McCook, Anson G.** Mentioned ..... 419, 454
**McCook, Daniel.**
Mentioned ..... 15, 420, 455-459
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22-27, 1864 ..... 460
**McCook, Edward M.**
Congratulations of John G. Foster. Operations about Dandridge, Tenn., Jan. 26-28, 1864 ..... 142
Correspondence with Samuel D. Sturgis ..... 111, 142
Itineraries of 1st Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, Jan.-April, 1864 ..... 33, 36, 38, 39
Mentioned ..... 15, 17, 19, 20, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, 42, 80, 81, 83-86, 92, 110, 111, 114, 131, 132, 134-138, 147, 406
Reports of
Dandridge, Tenn.
Operations about, including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16-17, 1864 ..... 84
Operations about, Jan. 26-28, 1864 ..... 139, 141
Maryville, Tenn. Skirmish near, Feb. 18, 1864 ..... 406

Page.
**McCook, Edward M.**—Continued.
Reports of
Mink Springs, Tenn. Skirmish at, near Cleveland, April 13, 1864... 668, 669
Waterhouse's Mill and Boiling Springs, Tenn. Skirmishes at, April 19–20, 1864 ..... 672
Wilsonville, Tenn. Capture of forage wagons near, Jan. 22, 1864 .... 110
**McCown, James.** Mentioned ..... 333
**McCoy, James C.** Mentioned ..... 179
**McCracken, William.**
Mentioned ..... 123
Report of operations in North Alabama, Jan. 23–29, 1864 ..... 124
**McCrillis, La Fayette.**
Mentioned ..... 172, 194, 254, 257, 259, 261, 266–269, 282–284, 289, 291, 292, 295, 302, 306, 307, 309, 310, 315
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864..... 302
**McCulloch, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 198, 258, 294, 334, 341, 342, 347, 349, 350, 352, 353, 355, 362, 521, 535, 536, 562, 565, 582, 583, 585, 592, 596, 609, 610, 613, 615, 616, 620–623
**McCurdy, ———.** Mentioned ..... 129
**McDonald, Charles.** Mentioned ..... 584
**McDonald, James H.** Mentioned ..... 459, 460
**McDowell, John A.** Mentioned ..... 399, 400
**McElroy, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 324, 673, 674
**McFarland, J. B.** Mentioned ..... 368
**McFarlane, James H.** Mentioned ..... 438
**McGee, William.** Mentioned ..... 612, 613
**McGroarty, Stephen J.** Report of scout from Whiteside's, Tenn., to Stevens' and Frick's Gaps, Ga., Feb. 25–26, 1864 ..... 484
**McGuirk, John.**
Mentioned ..... 334, 620, 623
Report of skirmish near La Grange, Tenn., Feb. 2, 1864 ..... 163
**McKaig, Hugh.** Mentioned ..... 652
**Mackall, William W.** Mentioned ..... 334
**McKee, George C.**
Correspondence with Lawrence S. Ross ..... 327, 328
Mentioned ..... 172, 316, 320, 321, 323–326
**McKeel, Garner.** Mentioned ..... 684
**McKnight,** Sergeant. Mentioned ..... 551
**McLagan, W. R.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn , April 12, 1864 ..... 557
**McLain, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 643
**McLamore, Richard.** Mentioned ..... 250
**McLaws, Lafayette.** Mentioned ..... 68, 496
**McLemore's Cove, Ga.** Reconnaissance from Lookout Valley, Tenn., to, March 30–April 1, 1864. Report of Adolphus Buschbeck..... 654
**McLendon, J. M.** Mentioned ..... 334
**McMillen, William L.**
Correspondence with William Sooy Smith..... 197
Itineraries of 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 16th Army Corps.
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864..... 198
Ripley, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April 30–May 9, 1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn..... 703
Mentioned ..... 168, 172, 196, 252, 290, 298, 455, 696–699
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864..... 196–198

Page.
**McNaughton, Harlow P.** Mentioned ..... 171
**McNutt, George.** Mentioned ..... 639, 642
**McNutt's Bridge, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Kelley's Ford and McNutt's Bridge, Tenn. Skirmishes at, Jan.* 27, 1864.
**McPherson, James B.**
Assignment to command ..... 4
Assumes command of the Army of the Tennessee ..... 5
Correspondence with
Brayman, Mason ..... 515
Dodge, Grenville M ..... 574
Leggett, Mortimer D ..... 228
Prince, Henry ..... 516
Sherman, William T ..... 180, 183, 326, 401, 555
Itinerary of 17th Army Corps. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 213
Mentioned ..... 19, 20, 170, 172, 174–178, 182, 184, 186–190, 192, 195, 214, 219, 221, 222, 228, 235, 236, 246, 248, 341, 343, 365, 514, 516–518, 572, 574, 576
Reports of
Decatur, Ala. Skirmish at, April 30, 1864 ..... 692
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 208, 209
**McSorley, Michael.** Mentioned ..... 702
**Madison, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 69
**Madisonville, Miss.** Affair at, Feb. 27, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Report of Moore*, p. 244.
**Magee, David W.** Mentioned ..... 420, 461
**Magruder, J. M.** Mentioned ..... 374
**Maine Troops.** Mentioned.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **10th**, 12.
**Malady, Joseph.** Mentioned ..... 491
**Mallory, William L.** Mentioned ..... 198
**Malone, Frank.** Mentioned ..... 702
**Maltby, Jasper A.**
Itinerary of 3d Brigade, 3d Division, 17th Army Corps, Jan. 10–16, 1864. Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to Sunnyside Landing, Ark., Jan. 10–16, 1864 ..... 69
Mentioned ..... 170, 192, 212, 220, 226, 227, 235, 236
**Manchester, Tenn.** Skirmish at, March 17, 1864* ..... 4
**Manson, Mahlon D.** Mentioned ..... 105–107
**Maps and Sketches.** See *Sketches.*
**Marco [?], Lieutenant-Colonel.** Mentioned ..... 549
**Maria Denning, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 553
**Marion County, Ala.** Operations against Unionists in, April 19, 1864. Report of Dudley W. Jones ..... 671
**Marion Station, Miss.** Skirmishes at, Feb. 15–17, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Report of Montgomery*, p. 205; *itinerary of 2d Brig., 4th Div., 16th Army Corps*, p. 207.
**Marl, George E.** Mentioned ..... 682–685
**Mars, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 201, 325
**Marshall, ———.** Mentioned ..... 659
**Marshall, James.**
Correspondence with Nathan B. Forrest ..... 597
Mentioned ..... 520, 559, 597, 616
**Marshall, Ky.** Skirmish at, Jan. 12, 1864* ..... 1

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Martin, James M.** Mentioned ..... 544
**Martin, William T.** Mentioned ..... 15, 18, 20, 34, 44, 84, 93, 112, 134, 136, 139, 142, 149, 161, 410
**Martin, W. K.** Mentioned ..... 413
**Maryland Troops.** Mentioned.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 48, 106; **3d**, 11, 27, 99–101.
**Maryville, Tenn.**
Expeditions from.
Jan. 11, 1864. See *Little Tennessee River, Tenn. Expedition from Maryville up the, Jan.* 11–12, 1864.
Jan. 31, 1864. See *Quallatown, N. C. Expedition from Maryville, Tenn., to, Jan.* 31–*Feb.* 7, 1864.
Reconnaissance from, Feb. 1, 1864. See *Sevierville, Tenn. Reconnaissance from Maryville toward, Feb.* 1–2, 1864.
Scout near, Feb. 8, 1864. Report of Joseph B. Presdee ..... 391
Skirmish near, Feb. 18, 1864. Reports of
Granger, Gordon ..... 406
McCook, Edward M ..... 406
**Mason, William.** Correspondence with Telegraph Operator at Paducah, Ky. 505
**Massachusetts Troops.** Mentioned.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 11, 27, 101; **21st**, **29th**, 48; **36th**, 105.
**Matson, Courtland C.** Mentioned ..... 57, 58, 95
**Matthies, Charles L.** Mentioned ..... 8, 9, 14, 419, 469
**Mattie Cook,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 320
**Maury, Dabney H.**
Mentioned ..... 334, 335
Reports of operations about Mobile, Ala., Feb. 16–March 27, 1864 ..... 401–403
**Maury, Henry.** Mentioned ..... 403, 499
**Maxwell, W. L.**
Correspondence with Stephen D. Lee ..... 360
Mentioned ..... 360, 375, 380
**May, A. J.** Mentioned ..... 646
**May, Buck.** Mentioned ..... 487, 665
**Mayfield, Ky.**
Guerrilla raid on, March 10, 1864. Report of Stephen G. Hicks ..... 493
Raid on, Feb. 22, 1864. Report of Stephen G. Hicks ..... 417
**Mays, William J.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 525
**Mead, L. G.** Mentioned ..... 654, 665
**Mechanicsburg, Miss.** Skirmishes at and near. See *Yazoo River, Miss. Expedition up the, April* 19–23, 1864, *with skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel.*
**Meeks, Frank.** Mentioned ..... 537
**Meheway, ———.** Mentioned ..... 164
**Mehringer, John.** Mentioned ..... 411
**Mellon, T. A.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Melton, ———.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Memphis, Tenn.**
Expeditions from.
Feb. 6, 1864. See *Wyatt, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, Feb.* 6–18, 1864.
April 30, 1864. See *Ripley, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April* 30–*May* 9, 1864, *and skirmish (May* 2) *at Bolivar, Tenn.*
Scout from, Jan. 3, 1864. See *Hernando, Miss. Scout from Memphis, Tenn., toward, Jan.* 3, 1864.

Page.
Mentzel, Herman. Mentioned ..... 106
Menzies, Samuel G.
Mentioned ..... 428
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 429
Meridian, Miss.
Occupation of, by Union forces, Feb. 14–20, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
McPherson, James B. Polk, Leonidas. Sherman, William T.
Skirmishes near.
Feb. 13–14, 1864. See *Chunky Creek and Meridian, Miss. Skirmishes between, Feb. 13–14, 1864.*
Feb. 19, 1864* ..... 165
**Meridian, Miss., Expedition, and co-operating expeditions from Memphis, Tenn., and up the Yazoo River, Feb. 3–March 6, 1864.**
Casualties. Returns of.
Confederate Troops ..... 355, 369
Union Troops ..... 191–194, 200, 204
Communications from
Buck, ——— ..... 359
Coates, James H ..... 327, 329
Davis, Jefferson ..... 344
Elliott, William ..... 342
Jackson, William H ..... 343
Lee, Stephen D ..... 340, 341
McKee, George C ..... 328, 329
McPherson, James B ..... 228, 326
Maxwell, W. L ..... 360
Perrin, R. O ..... 338, 340
Richardson, Robert V ..... 329
Ross, Lawrence S ..... 326–328
Sherman, William T ..... 179–181, 183, 184, 186
Smith, Andrew J ..... 265
Smith, William Sooy ..... 197, 267
War Department, C. S ..... 344
Congratulatory Orders.
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 356
Polk, Leonidas ..... 345, 356
Sherman, William T ..... 187
Itineraries.
Grierson, Benjamin H. (Cavalry Division, 16th Army Corps) ..... 261
Hess, Joseph C. (19th Pennsylvania Cavalry) ..... 286
Howe, James H. (2d Brigade, 4th Division, 16th Army Corps) ..... 207
Hurlbut, Stephen A. (16th Army Corps) ..... 195
Leggett, Mortimer D. (3d Division, 17th Army Corps) ..... 226
McMillen, William L. (1st Brigade, 1st Division, 16th Army Corps) ..... 198
McPherson, James B. (17th Army Corps) ..... 213
Moore, David (1st Brigade, 3d Division, 16th Army Corps) ..... 200
Shaw, William T. (2d Brigade, 3d Division, 16th Army Corps) ..... 200
Shepard, Isaac F. (1st Brigade, 1st Division, 17th Army Corps) ..... 332
Tuttle, James M. (1st Division, 16th Army Corps) ..... 196
Movements and disposition of troops in. Communications from William T. Sherman ..... 182, 187–190
Railroads. Destruction of ..... 204, 212, 213, 221, 230, 344, 345

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864**—Continued.
Reports of
Adams, Wirt ..... 371
Almon, Harry ..... 231
Belknap, William W ..... 224
Bradley, Daniel ..... 230
Browne, Thomas M ..... 274
Burgh, Henry B ..... 297
Carr, Henry M ..... 308
Chambers, Alexander ..... 223
Cheek, Christopher T ..... 309
Coates, James H ..... 315, 317–320
Coon, Datus E ..... 298
Crocker, Marcellus M ..... 237
Crosley, George W ..... 243
Curtis, Isaac W ..... 301
Duer, John O ..... 233
Ferguson, Samuel W ..... 378, 379
Force, Manning F ..... 227, 228
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 346–351
Gillespie, William C. B ..... 239
Gresham, Walter Q ..... 247
Grierson, Benjamin H ..... 260
Hall, Cyrus ..... 245
Hall, William ..... 224
Harvey, Addison ..... 381
Heinrichs, Gustav ..... 278
Hepburn, William P ..... 290
Hess, Joseph C ..... 285, 287
Hickenlooper, Andrew ..... 214
Holahan, Amos J ..... 287
Howe, John H ..... 234
Hurlbut, Stephen A ..... 194
Jackson, William H ..... 369
Kargé, Joseph ..... 280, 282
Kirkbride, Andrew B ..... 306
Langen, Edward ..... 277
Lee, Stephen D ..... 357–365
Leggett, Mortimer D ..... 225
McBath, William R ..... 311
McCrillis, La Fayette ..... 302
McMillen, William L ..... 196–198
McPherson, James B ..... 208, 209
Minnis, John B ..... 313
Montgomery, Milton ..... 204
Moore, Franklin ..... 270, 271
Moore, Jonathan B ..... 243, 245
Polk, Leonidas ..... 334–338, 340–343
Potter, John ..... 241
Richardson, Robert V ..... 382
Rose, Lucius M ..... 221
Ross, Lawrence S ..... 385–387
Rusk, Jeremiah M ..... 205

Page.
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864—Continued.
Reports of
Sanders, Addison H ..... 225
Shanks, John P. C ..... 272
Sherman, William T ..... 173
Smith, William Sooy ..... 251, 254
Starke, Peter B ..... 374
Starr, Mathew H ..... 293
Thornburgh, Jacob M ..... 314
Trafton, George W ..... 295
Veatch, James C ..... 201
Waring, George E., jr ..... 262, 265
Winslow, Edward F ..... 248
Sketch of Yazoo Expedition ..... 331
Union troops. Organization, strength, etc., Feb. 3, 1864 ..... 168–172
Meriwether, W. D. Mentioned ..... 404
Merriam, Jonathan. Mentioned ..... 169
Merriam, Thomas. Mentioned ..... 659, 660
Merrills, Harrison. Mentioned ..... 440
Merritt, Adoniram J. Mentioned ..... 214, 215, 218, 219, 223
Meyers, Ernest J. Mentioned ..... 170
Michigan Troops. Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Regiments:* **1st** (*Batteries*), **A**, 30, 31, 420, 452, 457; **E**, 11; **H**, 170, 192; **I**, **K**, 26.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 87–89, 139, 141–143, 146, 149; **3d**, 262; **4th**, 35–39, 109, 407, 408, 419, 421–423, 427, 432, 470, 473–475; **10th**, 42.
Engineers—*Regiments:* **1st**, 12, 14, 500.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **2d**, **8th**, 48; **10th**, 16, 420, 457–460, 478; **11th**, 645; **13th**, 11, 40; **14th**, 11; **15th**, 129, 486–488; **19th**, 25; **20th**, 105; **21st**, **22d**, 40; **23d**, 151, 152, 160; **27th**, 106.
Middle Tennessee. Hughs' operations in, Jan. 1–April 18, 1864. Report of John M. Hughs ..... 55
Middleton, Tenn. Skirmish at, Jan. 14, 1864* ..... 1
Mifflin, Tenn. Skirmish at, Feb. 18, 1864* ..... 3
Mihalotzy, Geza.
Mentioned ..... 104, 420, 453
Report of scout from Chattanooga to Harrison and Ooltewah, Tenn., Jan. 21, 1864 ..... 102
Milburn, Robert. Mentioned ..... 438
Military Division of the Mississippi. See *Mississippi, Military Division of the.*
Miller, ———. Mentioned ..... 110
Miller, Abram O.
Itinerary of 2d Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, Jan., 1864 ..... 35
Mentioned ..... 7, 35, 37, 39, 40, 117–119, 123
Report of operations in North Alabama, Jan. 23–29, 1864 ..... 121
Miller, Benjamin F. Mentioned ..... 454
Miller, Henry. Mentioned ..... 682
Miller, Martin J. Mentioned ..... 143, 146
Mills, James. Mentioned ..... 153
Mills, James K. Mentioned ..... 70, 169
Mills, John A. Mentioned ..... 430
Mills, Samuel. Mentioned ..... 147, 566

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Milsoaps, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 484
**Mims, David A.** Mentioned ..... 646, 648
**Mindil, George W.** Mentioned ..... 26, 32
**Miner, George G.** Mentioned ..... 92, 93, 138
**Mink Springs, near Cleveland, Tenn.** Skirmish at, April 13, 1864. Reports of
Comstock, James M ..... 669
McCook, Edward M ..... 668, 669
**Minnehaha,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 320
**Minnesota Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **2d**, 420, 455, 457.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 11; **5th**, 168.
**Minnis, John B.**
Mentioned ..... 172, 258, 304, 305
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 313
**Minty, Robert H. G.**
Itineraries of 1st Brigade, 2d Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, Jan., Feb., 1864 ..... 35, 37
Mentioned ..... 35, 37, 39, 40
Report of scout to Dedmon's Trace, Ga., April 10, 1864 ..... 658
**Missionary,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 21
**Mississippi.** Operations in. See Summary, pp. 1–6.
**Mississippi, Military Division of the.**
Orders, Special, series 1864: **No. 34**, 515.
Sherman, William T.
Assigned to command of ..... 4
Assumes command of ..... 4
**Mississippi Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Battalions:* **14th** (*Batteries*), **C**, 334. *Batteries:* **Brookhaven**, 333; **Buckner**, 334; **Jefferson**, 478; **Pettus Flying**, 353; **Seven Stars**, 333; **Warren Light Artillery**, 483. *Regiments:* **1st** (*Batteries*), **G**, 332.
Cavalry—*Battalions:* **18th**, 334, 620, 621; **19th**, 334, 355. *Companies:* **Red's** (*State*), 355. *Regiments:* **1st**, 331, 333, 370, 375–377; **1st Partisan Rangers**, 334, 620; **2d**,* 333; **3d** (*State*), 163, 334, 355, 620; **4th** (*Wilbourn's*), 333, 358, 372, 373, 381; **5th**, 334, 355; **12th**,† 333, 379; **28th**, 333, 375–377; **Wirt Adams'**, 333, 369, 370, 372, 373; **Ballentine's**, 333, 375–377; **Miller's**, 379.
Infantry—*Battalions:* **1st Sharpshooters**, 332; **15th Sharpshooters**, 481. *Regiments:* **3d**, **6th**, **14th**, **15th**, **20th**, **22d**, **26th**, **31st**, **33d**, 332.
**Missouri Troops.** Mentioned. (Confederate.)
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **Clark**, 333, 365, 370, 372, 377, 386; **Walsh's**, 333.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **1st**, 333; **2d**, 334, 355; **3d**, 333.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **1st**, **2d**, **3d**, **4th**, **5th**, **6th**, 333.
**Missouri Troops.** Mentioned. (Union.)
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **Knispel's**,‡ 278, 279. *Regiments:* **1st** (*Batteries*), **C**, 170, 192; **G**, 16; **M**, 170, 192, 214; **2d**, 623.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **1st**, 623; **4th**, 113, 171, 193, 258, 261–263, 265, 268–273, 276–281, 284, 295, 665, 702; **10th**, 171, 193, 214, 249, 674, 694, 699, 702.

*Also called 4th Mississippi Cavalry.
†Also called 12th Battalion.
‡Howitzer battery attached to 4th Missouri Cavalry.

Page.

**Missouri Troops.** Mentioned. (Union)—Continued.
Engineers—*Regiments:* **1st,*** 12, 14.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **7th**, 170, 192; **8th**, 128, 486; **11th**, 168; **15th**, 11; **21st**, 156, 157, 169; **24th**, 169, 545; **29th**, 497, 498; **32d**, 419, 422, 467, 468, 498; **33d**, 169, 205.
**Mitchell, ———.** Mentioned ..... 430
**Mitchell, Greenville M.**
Correspondence with James Oakes ..... 633
Mentioned ..... 630, 632, 633, 635–637, 639, 641
**Mitchell, James A.** Mentioned ..... 141
**Mitchell, John G.** Mentioned ..... 420, 458
**Mitchell, J. M.** Mentioned ..... 480
**Mobile, Ala.** Operations about, Feb. 16–March 27, 1864. Reports of Dabney H. Maury ..... 401–403
**Mobile Bay, Ala.** See *Forts Morgan and Gaines, Mobile Bay, Ala. Naval reconnaissance of, Jan.* 20, 1864.
**Mollie Abel,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 572
**Montgomery, David L.**
Correspondence with James Oakes ..... 630
Mentioned ..... 630, 631, 634
**Montgomery, Ebenezer.** Mentioned ..... 285
**Montgomery, James A.** Mentioned ..... 72
**Montgomery, Milton.**
Mentioned ..... 169, 191, 201, 204, 206, 503, 509, 575, 580
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 204
**Mooney, James.** Mentioned ..... 419
**Moore, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 654
**Moore, Lieutenant.** Mentioned ..... 365, 370, 388
**Moore, Anthony.** Mentioned ..... 103
**Moore, Charles P.** Mentioned ..... 301
**Moore, David.**
Itinerary of 1st Brigade, 3d Division, 16th Army Corps. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 200
Mentioned ..... 169, 191, 200
**Moore, David H.** Mentioned ..... 92
**Moore, Edwin.**
Mentioned ..... 169
Report of firing on steamer Sir William Wallace, in Mississippi River, Jan. 29, 1864 ..... 156
**Moore, Franklin.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 273, 284
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including operations since Jan. 22, 1864 ..... 270, 271
**Moore, George.** Mentioned ..... 404
**Moore, Jesse H.** Mentioned ..... 419, 422
**Moore, John C.** Mentioned ..... 478
**Moore, John W.** Mentioned ..... 585
**Moore, Jonathan B.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 238
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 243, 245
**Moore, Risdon M.** Mentioned ..... 169, 191
**Moorman, George.** Mentioned ..... 371
**Moreland, M. D.** Mentioned ..... 626, 685

* Formerly Bissell's Engineer Regiment.

Page.

**Morgan, James D.**
Mentioned ..... 31, 120, 455, 456, 458
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 458
**Morgan, James W.** Mentioned ..... 543
**Morgan, John H.** Mentioned ..... 28, 496, 580, 646, 660
**Morgan, John T.** (Confederate.) Mentioned ... 34, 68, 131, 134–136, 139, 140, 142, 161
**Morgan, John T.** (Union.) Mentioned ..... 651, 652
**Morgan, William.** Mentioned ..... 540
**Morgan, Fort.** See *Fort Morgan.*
**Morris, D. P.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Morris, J. T.** Mentioned ..... 355
**Morrison, ———.** Mentioned ..... 7
**Morrison, Alfred.** Mentioned ..... 419, 422
**Morrison, David.** Mentioned ..... 105
**Morristown, Tenn.** Scout near. See *Nola Chucky Bend, near Morristown, Tenn. Scout to, March* 12, 1864.
**Morrow, John C.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Morse, Francis W.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Morse, William W.** Mentioned ..... 99
**Morton, George H.** Mentioned ..... 333, 607
**Morton, Gilbert C.** Mentioned ..... 229
**Morton, Miss.**
Skirmishes at.
Feb. 7, 1864* ..... 164
Feb. 10, 1864* ..... 164
Skirmish near, Feb. 8, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Reports of McPherson*, p. 210; *Ferguson*, p. 379.
**Moscow, Ky.** Scout to. See *Clinton and Moscow, Ky. Scout from Columbus to, March* 30, 1864.
**Mossy Creek, Tenn.**
Action at, Dec. 29, 1863. See *general report of Foster*, p. 44. Also Vol. XXXI, Part I.
Skirmishes near.
Jan. 10, 1864. Report of Oscar H. La Grange ..... 67
Jan. 12, 1864. Report of Oscar H. La Grange ..... 71
**Motley's Ford, Tenn.** Expedition from, etc. See *Murphy, N. C. Expedition from Motley's Ford, Tenn., to, Feb.* 17–22, 1864.
**Mott, Samuel R.** Mentioned ..... 49
**Moulton, Ala.**
Affair at, March 8, 1864. See *Courtland and Moulton, Ala. Affairs at, March* 8, 1864.
Skirmish near, March 21, 1864. Reports of
Dodge, Grenville M ..... 625
Jackson, James ..... 626
Johnson, William A ..... 626
**Moulton, Daniel S.** Mentioned ..... 91, 145
**Mount Pleasant, Miss.** Skirmish at, Jan. 25, 1864* ..... 2
**Mower, Joseph A.** Mentioned ..... 168, 195, 196, 203
**Muddy Creek, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Flat Creek and Muddy Creek, Tenn. Skirmishes at, Jan.* 26, 1864.
**Muldrow, H. L.** Mentioned ..... 374
**Mullen, Fayette.** Mentioned ..... 638

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page

**Munitions of War.** Supplies of, etc. Communications from
Porter, A. P ..... 12
Quartermaster-General's Office, C. S. A ..... 94
Sherman, William T. ..... 182, 185, 188–190
See also *general report of Foster*, pp. 42–46; *report of Longstreet*, p. 93.
**Munroe, John H.** Mentioned ..... 522, 529
**Murfreesborough, Tenn.** Skirmish near, March 4, 1864* ..... 4
**Murphy, Mrs.** Mentioned ..... 642
**Murphy, George E.** Mentioned ..... 440
**Murphy, John.**
Correspondence with
Columbia, Tenn., Commanding Officer at ..... 580
Haney, Owen ..... 580
Mentioned ..... 575, 577
**Murphy, John W.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 641
**Murphy, Michael.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 641, 642
**Murphy, Miles.** Mentioned ..... 635, 641, 642
**Murphy, N. C.** Expedition from Motley's Ford, Tenn., to, Feb. 17–22, 1864.
Report of Nathan Paine ..... 404, 405
**Murray, Charles D.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Murray, Eli H.**
Correspondence with
Atkins, Smith D ..... 680
Baird, Absalom ..... 681
Mentioned ..... 40, 678, 688, 691
Report of attack on Union pickets at Nickajack Trace, Ga., April 23, 1864. 679
**Murray, Thomas B.** Mentioned ..... 7, 65, 100
**Nale, John H.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Nashville, C. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 402
**Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, near Tullahoma, Tenn.** Raid on the, March 16, 1864. Reports of
Hall, George R ..... 500
Tanner, Adolphus H ..... 499
**Natchez, Miss.**
Operations near, Jan. 24, 1864. Report of Wirt Adams ..... 126
Skirmish near, April 25, 1864* ..... 6
**Navy, U. S.** Co-operation of, with Army. See *Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864. Report of Brayman*, p. 513.
**Neely, ———.** Mentioned ..... 162, 399
**Neely, James J.** Mentioned ..... 352, 383, 384, 582, 608, 610, 620, 623
**Neely, James M.** Mentioned ..... 543
**Neer, John.** Mentioned ..... 634
**Neet, Frederick R.** Mentioned ..... 251
**Neff, Andrew J.** Mentioned ..... 419, 422
**Neff, William.** Mentioned ..... 242
**Nelson, T. M.** Mentioned ..... 333
**New Albany, Miss.** Skirmish near, Feb. 23, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Cheek, Christopher T. Kirkbride, Andrew B. McCrillis, La Fayette.
**Newbold, Joseph H.** Mentioned ..... 169
**New Era, U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 559

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**New Hampshire Troops.** Mentioned.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **9th**, 411.
**New Hope, Ky.** Affair at, March 28, 1864. Report of Edward H. Hobson . 629
**New Jersey Troops.** Mentioned.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 171, 193, 265, 268–270, 272, 273, 279–285, 583, 699, 702.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **34th**, 404, 491, 623; **35th**, 169, 191, 195, 196, 204, 205, 503, 509, 575.
**New Madrid, Mo.** Scout from Island No. 10, Tenn., to, March 18, 1864. Report of Robert M. Ekings ..... 623
**Newman, Colonel.** Mentioned ..... 487
**Newport, John.** Mentioned ..... 154, 155
**Newport, Tenn.** Skirmish near, Jan. 23, 1864. Reports of
La Grange, Oscar H ..... 115
Sturgis, Samuel D ..... 114
**Newsom, John F.** Mentioned ..... 70
**Newton, John.** (Captain.) Mentioned ..... 668
**Newton, John.** (Major-General.) Mentioned ..... 18
**Newton, John L.** Mentioned ..... 436
**New York Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **13th**, 11, 26. *Regiments:* **1st** (*Batteries*), **I**, 12; **M**, 12, 27.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **17th**, 169, 191, 195, 196, 204, 207, 503, 509, 575; **45th**, 11, 26, 32; **46th**, 48; **51st**, 48, 49; **58th**, 11, 25, 26, 32; **60th**, 660; **68th**, 11, 25, 26, 32; **78th**, 27; **79th**, 105; **102d**, 27, 29; **119th**, 32; **123d**, 499, 500, 501; **136th**, 25; **145th**, **150th**, 27; **178th**, 169, 191, 200.
**Nichols, Emanuel.** Testimony of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 526
**Nichols, John W.** Mentioned ..... 239, 240, 243
**Nickajack Gap, Ga.** Skirmish near, March 9, 1864. Report of Absalom Baird . 493
**Nickajack Trace, Ga.** Attack on Union pickets at, April 23, 1864.
Communications from
Atkins, Smith D ..... 680
Helm, Clinton ..... 682
Hine, Robert J ..... 681
Murray, Eli H ..... 681
Strock, John L ..... 681
Winston, Thomas ..... 684
Reports of
Baird, Absalom ..... 678
Murray, Eli H ..... 679
Sheets, Benjamin F ..... 679
Testimony of
Irvine, William N ..... 683
Light, Miles B ..... 683
Sickler, Abram B ..... 683
Steuben, Frederick W ..... 683
**Nixon, George H.** Mentioned ..... 685
**Nola Chucky Bend, near Morristown, Tenn.** Scout to, March 12, 1864. Report of John W. Hammond ..... 496
**Nolte, John F.** Mentioned ..... 171
**North Alabama.** Operations in, Jan. 23–29, 1864. Reports of
Atkins, Smith D ..... 123
Dodge, Grenville M ..... 118–120
McCracken, William ..... 124

Page.
**North Alabama.** Operations in, Jan. 23–29, 1864—Continued. Reports of
Miller, Abram O ..... 121
Rawlins, John A ..... 117
Robinson, James E ..... 125
Van Buskirk, Matthew ..... 123
Woods, Charles R ..... 120
See also *general report of Thomas*, p. 7.
**North Carolina Troops.** Mentioned. (Confederate.)
Infantry—*Regiments:* **29th**, 333; **58th**, **60th**, 483.
**North Carolina Troops.** Mentioned. (Union.)
Infantry—*Regiments:* **2d Mounted**, 411.
**Northedge, William.** Mentioned ..... 159
**Northerner**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 69
**Norton, David W.** Mentioned ..... 423
**Norwood, Sam.** Mentioned ..... 651, 659
**Noyes, Landford.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Nunley, David.** Mentioned ..... 99
**Oakes, James.**
Correspondence with
Mitchell, Greenville M ..... 633
Montgomery, David L ..... 630
Mentioned ..... 629, 637, 669, 670
Report of riot at Charleston, Coles County, Ill., March 28, 1864 ..... 630
**Oak Ridge, Miss.** Skirmish at, Jan. 16, 1864* ..... 1
**Obey's River, Tenn.**
Expedition from Burkesville, Ky., to, April 18–20, 1864. Report of James W. Weatherford ..... 671
Skirmish on, March 28, 1864. Report of Edward H. Hobson ..... 644
**O'Brien, William.** Mentioned ..... 30
**O'Conner, Reginald J. A.** Mentioned ..... 682, 684
**Odlin, James H.**
Mentioned ..... 502–504, 514
Reports of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 540–542
**O'Hair, Henderson.** Mentioned ..... 643
**O'Hair, James, jr.** Mentioned ..... 635, 643
**O'Hair, Jesse.** Mentioned ..... 643
**O'Hair, John H.** Mentioned ..... 631–634, 636, 638, 639, 641, 643
**O'Hair, Nelson.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Ohio, Army of the.**
Army Corps, 9th, ordered to Annapolis, Md ..... 4
Cox, Jacob D.
Assigned to command of 23d Army Corps ..... 5
Relieved from command of 23d Army Corps ..... 3
Foster, John G., relieved from command of ..... 3
Itineraries. See *Army Corps* and *Cavalry Corps*.
Orders, Special, series 1864: **No. 54** (*Burbridge*), 395.
Parke, John G., resumes command of 9th Army Corps ..... 2
Potter, Robert B., relieved from command of 9th Army Corps ..... 2
Schofield, John M.
Assigned to command of ..... 2
Assumes command of ..... 3
Assigned to command of 23d Army Corps ..... 5
Assumes command of 23d Army Corps ..... 5

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Ohio, Army of the**—Continued.
Stoneman, George.
Assigned to command of Cavalry Corps of ..... 5
Assigned to command of 23d Army Corps ..... 2
Assumes command of 23d Army Corps ..... 3
Willcox, Orlando B., assigned to command of 9th Army Corps ..... 2
**Ohio, Department of the.** Operations in, Jan. 1–Feb. 9, 1864. Reports of John G. Foster ..... 41, 44
**Ohio Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **3d**, 170, 192; **7th**, 171, 193; **9th**, 12, 27; **12th**, 11; **13th**, 214; **15th**, 171, 193, 248; **22d**, 58; **26th**, 170. *Regiments:* **1st** (*Batteries*), **A**, 50, 107, 457; **B**, 11, 29; **C**, **F**, **G**, 11; **I**, 31.
Cavalry—*Companies:* **4th**, 170, 211. *Regiments:* **1st**, 11, 35, 36, 38, 40, 421; **3d**, 11, 35, 36, 38, 421; **4th**, 11, 35, 36, 38, 419, 421, 422, 470; **5th**, 129, 660, 661, 665; **7th**, 93; **9th**, 662; **10th**, 40, 75, 82, 685.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **2d**, 419, 452, 454; **5th**, 11, 27, 29, 655; **7th**, 11, 29, 32, 663, 665; **9th**, 420; **11th**, 16, 420, 462–466; **13th**, 11, 23; **14th**, 489; **15th**, 11, 23; **17th**, 11, 31; **18th**, 11, 40; **19th**, 11, 23; **20th**, 170, 192, 214; **21st**, 11, 29; **24th**, 11, 419, 422, 432–434, 436, 442, 443; **26th**, 11; **29th**, 29; **31st**, 11, 31; **32d**, 170, 192, 214, 221; **33d**, 11, 29, 31; **35th**, 30, 420; **36th**, 16, 31; **38th**, 489; **40th**, 11, 16, 419, 422, 427, 439; **41st**, **49th**, 11, 23; **50th**, 51, 52; **51st**, 11; **52d**, 420; **55th**, 11, 24–26; **61st**, 16, 26; **64th**, **65th**, 11; **66th**, 32, 651, 660, 663; **68th**, 170, 192, 214, 226; **69th**, 11, 16, 31; **71st**, 11, 155; **72d**, 168; **73d**, 24–26; **74th**, 11, 29, 31; **78th**, 170, 192; **81st**, 153; **82d**, 11, 25, 26; **89th**, **92d**, 420, 462–466; **93d**, 91; **94th**, 419, 452, 453; **95th**, 168; **99th**, 419, 422; **100th**, 50, 51; **104th**, 50; **105th**, 30, 420; **108th**, 420; **111th**, 150, 160, 392, 393; **113th**, 420; **125th**, 92.
**Okolona, Miss.**
Affair near, Feb. 18, 1864. See *Meridian Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Grierson, Benjamin H. Kirkbride, Andrew B. Waring, George E., jr.
Heinrichs, Gustav. Smith, William Sooy.
Engagement near, Feb. 22, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Browne, Thomas M. Hepburn, William P. Moore, Franklin.
Burgh, Henry B. Holahan, Amos J. Smith, William Sooy.
Carr, Henry M. Kargé, Joseph. Starr, Mathew H.
Cheek, Christopher T. Kirkbride, Andrew B. Thornburgh, Jacob M.
Curtis, Isaac W. McBath, William R. Trafton, George W.
Forrest, Nathan B. McCrillis, La Fayette. Waring, George E., jr.
Heinrichs, Gustav. Minnis, John B.
Skirmish near, Feb. 21, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Browne, Thomas M. Holahan, Amos J. Smith, William Sooy.
Coon, Datus E. Kargé, Joseph. Waring, George E., jr.
Forrest, Nathan B. Moore, Franklin.
**Olive Branch**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 554, 572–574, 614
**Oliver, John M.**
Mentioned ..... 129, 486, 487
Report of expedition from Larkin's Landing to Gourd Neck and Guntersville, Ala., March 2–3, 1864 ..... 487
**Oliver, William S.** Mentioned ..... 170
**O'Neil, A. F.** Mentioned ..... 513, 549, 577

Page.
**Onion, James M.** Mentioned ..... 308
**Ooltewah, Tenn.**
Scout from, etc. See *Burke's and Ellidge's Mills, Ga. Scout from Ooltewah, Tenn., to, Feb.* 18–19, 1864.
Scout to. See *Harrison and Ooltewah, Tenn. Scout from Chattanooga to, Jan.* 21, 1864 ..... 102
**Organ, John R.** Mentioned ..... 651
**Organization, Strength, etc.**
Confederate Troops ..... 332–334
Union Troops ..... 168–172, 419–421
**Osband, Embury D.**
Mentioned ..... 172, 320, 322, 330, 332
Report of expedition up the Yazoo River, Miss., skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel ..... 674
**Osterhaus, Peter J.** Reports of
Harrison's Gap, Ala. Affair at, April 21, 1864 ..... 676
Woodville, Ala. Scout from, March 30, 1864 ..... 654
**Otey, W. N. Mercer.** Mentioned ..... 348
**Overmyer, George W.** Report of affair at Lee's House, on Cornersville Pike, Tenn., Jan. 28, 1864 ..... 153
**Owen, Elias K.**
Correspondence with William T. Sherman ..... 184
Mentioned ..... 178, 181, 183, 184, 318, 320–322
**Paducah, Ky.**
Attack on, March 25, 1864. Communications from
Brayman, Mason ..... 504, 506
Paducah, Ky., Telegraph Operator at ..... 505
For reports, see *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March* 16–*April* 14, 1864. *Reports of*
Brayman, Mason. Forrest, Nathan B. Veatch, James C.
Chapman, James F. Hicks, Stephen G.
Skirmish at, April 14, 1864. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March* 16–*April* 14, 1864. *Report of Brayman*, p. 511.
**Paducah, Ky., Telegraph Operator at.** Correspondence with William Mason. 505
**Paine, Eleazer A.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Paine, Nathan.**
Mentioned ..... 37
Reports of expedition from Motley's Ford, Tenn., to Murphy and vicinity, N. C., Feb. 17–22, 1864 ..... 404, 405
**Paint Rock,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 21
**Paint Rock Bridge, Ala.** Skirmish at, April 8, 1864. Report of Alfred B. Wade ..... 658
**Paintsville, Ky.** Skirmish at, April 13, 1864. See *Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March* 28–*April* 16, 1864. *Reports of Gallup*, p. 646; *Johnson*, p. 649; *itinerary of U. S. forces*, p. 648.
**Palmer, John B.** Report of affair at Sevierville, Tenn. (13th), and skirmish at Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th), Jan. 13–14, 1864 .... 76
**Palmer, John M.**
Congratulatory Orders. Demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 .. 445
Correspondence with George H. Thomas ..... 449–451
Itineraries of 14th Army Corps, Jan.–April, 1864 ..... 29–31
Mentioned ..... 8, 9, 19, 20, 29, 38, 104, 133, 134, 419, 423–426 431–434, 438, 445–453, 455–457, 461–463, 470, 472, 489, 679

Page.

**Palmer, William J.**
Mentioned ..... 46, 73, 74, 82, 83, 110, 111, 136, 138, 421
Reports of
Clark's Ferry, Tenn. Scout from near Dandridge to, Jan. 10–11, 1864 .. 68
Sevierville, Tenn. Affair at (13th), and skirmish at Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th), Jan. 13–14, 1864 ..... 75
**Panther Springs, Tenn.** Skirmish at, March 5, 1864. Reports of
Cox, Jacob D ..... 490
Cross, William ..... 491
**Panwitz, Erich von.** Mentioned ..... 284, 285
**Pardee, Ario, jr.** Mentioned ..... 28
**Park, Horace.** Mentioned ..... 119
**Park, J. M.** Mentioned ..... 620
**Parke, John G.**
Itinerary of 9th Army Corps, Jan.–March, 1864 ..... 48
Mentioned ..... 41, 45, 48, 81, 107
Report of operations about Dandridge, Tenn., including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan 16–17, 1864 ..... 78
Resumes command of 9th Army Corps ..... 2
**Parkell, Alonzo B.** Mentioned ..... 249
**Parker, Jeremiah.** Mentioned ..... 153
**Parkhurst, John G.**
Correspondence with George H. Thomas ..... 22
Mentioned ..... 11, 16, 22
Report of prisoners of war and deserters received and disposed of ... 12, 13, 17, 22
**Parks, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 491, 492, 624
**Parmelee, John R.** Mentioned ..... 276
**Parrott, Henry C.** Mentioned ..... 436
**Parry, Augustus C.** Mentioned ..... 128
**Parsons, George B.** Mentioned ..... 250, 251
**Parsons, Pleasant K.** Mentioned ..... 544
**Patrick, John H.** Mentioned ..... 27–29
**Patrick, Reuben.** Mentioned ..... 51, 648
**Patterson, Josiah.** Mentioned ..... 672
**Patterson, Michael L.** Mentioned ..... 409
**Paul, James R.** Mentioned ..... 449
**Paul, W. P.** Mentioned ..... 371
**Paw Paw, U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 513, 549
**Pearl River, Miss.** Skirmishes on, Feb. 28, 1884. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition; etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of Gillespie*, p. 239; *Potter*, p. 241.
**Pearson, Robert N.** Mentioned ..... 170, 229
**Peebles, Ferdinand E.** Mentioned ..... 172, 316, 320, 323–325
**Pegram, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 573
**Peirce, Ebenezer W.** Mentioned ..... 105
**Peironnet, Charles A.** Mentioned ..... 325
**Pennebaker, Charles D.**
Mentioned ..... 54, 55
Report of skirmish at Big Springs, near Tazewell, Tenn., Jan. 19, 1864 ..... 94
**Pennington, ———.** Mentioned ..... 51
**Pennock, Alexander M.** Mentioned ..... 501, 508, 513, 542

Page.

**Pennsylvania Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **E**, 27, 29, 32, 663.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **7th**, 11, 35, 37, 39; **9th**, 86–89, 142, 143, 148, 149; **15th**, 46, 68, 73–75, 82 421; **19th**, 113, 171, 193, 262–267, 269, 272, 273, 281, 286–290, 582, 584.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **27th**, 25; **28th**, 29, 32, 655, 663; **29th**, 29; **45th**, 48; **46th**, 11, 27; **48th**, **50th**, **51st**, 48; **73d**, 11, 24; **75th**, 25, 32; **77th**, 11; **78th**, 29–31; **79th**, 16, 420; **100th**, 48; **109th**, 11, 27, 29; **111th**, 29; **147th**, 27–29, 32, 663.
**Peosta, U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 513, 549
**Pereau, W. L.** Mentioned ..... 381
**Perkins, ———.** Mentioned ..... 627
**Perkins, George T.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Perkins, Marland L.** Mentioned ..... 307, 309
**Perrin, R. O.**
Correspondence with Leonidas Polk ..... 338, 340
Mentioned ..... 360, 364, 367
**Peters, John H.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Peters, William E.** Report of skirmishes at Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, on Indian Creek, Va., and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864 ..... 414
**Petrel, U. S. Gunboat.**
Capture of. See *Yazoo River, Miss. Expedition up the, April* 19–23, 1864, *with skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel.*
Mentioned ..... 674
**Pettit, Ezekiel.** Mentioned ..... 681
**Pettus, Edmund W.** Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 482
**Phillips, Jesse J.** Mentioned ..... 117, 119, 120, 122, 409, 492, 625, 692
**Pickering, Joseph.** Mentioned ..... 411
**Pickett, George E.** Mentioned ..... 47, 130
**Pickett, R. O.** Mentioned ..... 685
**Pierson, J. Lacey.** Mentioned ..... 282, 284
**Pillow, Fort.** See *Fort Pillow.*
**Pillow, Gideon J.** Mentioned ..... 621
**Pinson, R. A.** Mentioned ..... 333, 370, 375, 377
**Pirman, Martin.** Mentioned ..... 702
**Pirom, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 55
**Pittsburg, U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 396
**Platte Valley, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 317, 558, 562, 571
**Pleasant Hill Landing, Tenn.** Skirmish at, April 12, 1864* ..... 5
**Polk, Leonidas.**
Command of, designated Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana ..... 2
Congratulatory Orders. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 345, 356
Correspondence with
Adams, Wirt ..... 676
Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, C. S. A ..... 608, 675
Elliott, William ..... 342
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 619
Jackson, William H ..... 343

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Polk, Leonidas**—Continued.
Correspondence with
Lee, Stephen D ... 340, 341
Perrin, R. O ... 338, 340
Tate, Samuel ... 344
Mentioned ... 8–10, 20, 173, 174, 176, 332, 334, 344–347, 356–358, 366–368, 371, 378, 379, 477, 592, 608–613, 617, 618, 693, 694, 697
Reports of
Jones County, Miss. Operations in, March 14, 1864 ... 499
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 334–338, 340–343

**Pontotoc, Miss.** Skirmish near, Feb. 17, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Kirkbride, Andrew B. McCrillis, La Fayette. Smith, William Sooy.

**Poor, William H.** Mentioned ... 668

**Porter, Andrew P.**
Correspondence with George H. Thomas ... 12
Mentioned ... 11, 16

**Porter, David D.**
Correspondence with William T. Sherman ... 183
Mentioned ... 173, 177, 178, 183, 513

**Porter, John H.** Mentioned ... 562

**Porter, John M.** Mentioned ... 141

**Poston, John L.** Mentioned ... 559

**Poteet, Benjamin F.** Mentioned ... 64

**Potter, Carroll H.** Mentioned ... 629

**Potter, Edward E.** For correspondence as Chief of Staff, see *John G. Foster.*

**Potter, John.**
Mentioned ... 239, 240
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 241

**Potter, Robert B.**
Mentioned ... 41, 42, 45, 47, 48, 50, 52, 104, 107, 110, 476
Relieved from command of 9th Army Corps ... 2

**Potts, Benjamin F.** Mentioned ... 170, 192, 211, 220, 226, 227, 235

**Powder Springs Gap, Tenn.** Reconnaissances from. See *Rogersville and Bull's Gap, Tenn. Reconnaissances from Powder Springs Gap toward, April 2–4, 1864.*

**Powell, David B.** Mentioned ... 98

**Powell, John W.** Mentioned ... 171, 193

**Powell, Walter H.** Mentioned ... 171

**Powell's Bridge, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, Va. Skirmishes at, on Indian Creek, and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864.*

**Prairie Bird, U. S. S.** Mentioned ... 674

**Prairie Station, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 21, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Report of Waring*, p. 267.

**Pratt, John.** Mentioned ... 141

**Prentice, Clarence J.** Mentioned ... 648

**Presdee, Joseph B.**
Mentioned ... 145
Report of scout near Maryville, Tenn., Feb. 8, 1864 ... 391

**President C. S.** See *Jefferson Davis.*

**President U. S.** See *Abraham Lincoln.*

**Pride, Coolie.** Mentioned ... 519

Page.

**Pridemore, Auburn L.**
Mentioned ..... 59, 60
Report of action at Jonesville, Va., Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 64
**Priest, Lewis C.** Mentioned ..... 309
**Prince, Edward.** Report of scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Ripley, Miss., Jan. 23, 1864 ..... 116
**Prince, Henry.**
Assignment to command ..... 515
Assumes command of District of Columbus, Ky ..... 516
Correspondence with
Brayman, Mason ..... 517, 518
McPherson, James B ..... 516
Mentioned ..... 514, 515, 517
**Prisoners of War.**
Captures, etc., of. Report of John G. Parkhurst ..... 12, 13, 17, 22
Exchange of, etc. Communications from
Coates, James H ..... 329
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 548
Hicks, Stephen G ..... 548
Richardson, Robert V ..... 329
Treatment of. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864. Reports of Washburn*, p. 586 *et seq.; inclosures in report of Brayman*, p. 519 *et seq.* Also *Young to Forrest*, p. 595; *Young to Washburn*, p. 604.
**Pritchard, John.** Mentioned ..... 519
**Private Property.** Depredations on. Communication from William T. Sherman ..... 187
**Prosser, William F.** Mentioned ..... 172, 303, 305, 311, 312
**Proudfit, James K.** Mentioned ..... 171, 238, 247
**Pugh, Isaac C.** Mentioned ..... 630, 631
**Purdy, George H.** Mentioned ..... 91, 145, 161
**Putnam County, Tenn.** Scout in. See *White and Putnam Counties, Tenn. Scout in, Feb. 1–7, 1864.*
**Putnam, Douglas, jr.** Mentioned ..... 464
**Quaite, A. G.** Mentioned ..... 364, 368
**Quallatown, N. C.** Expedition from Maryville, Tenn., to, Jan. 31–Feb. 7, 1864. Report of John G. Foster ..... 159
See also *general report of Foster*, p. 46.
**Quarles, William A.** Mentioned ..... 477
**Quartermaster-General's Office, C. S. A.** Correspondence with Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, C. S. A ..... 94
**Queal, Paul A.** Mentioned ..... 300
**Queen of the West**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 184
**Queen's Hill, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 4, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Adams, Wirt. Lee, Stephen D. Starke, Peter B.
**Quicksand Creek, Ky.** Skirmish on, April 5, 1864. See *Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March 28–April 16, 1864. Itinerary of U. S. forces*, p. 648.
**Quin, Josephus R.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Quinby, Isaac F.** Mentioned ..... 404
**Quinton, William.** Mentioned ..... 446, 448
**Rabb, John W.** Mentioned ..... 623
**Raffen, Alexander W.** Mentioned ..... 419, 453

Page.
**Ragland Mills, Bath County, Ky.** Skirmish at, Jan. 13, 1864. Report of William P. Anderson ..... 71
**Raiford's Plantation, Miss, near Byhalia.** Affair at, Feb. 11, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Report of McCrillis*, p. 302.
**Rainear, Lewis.** Mentioned ..... 702
**Raines, John,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 398
**Rainey, J. M.** Mentioned ..... 329
**Raleigh, Tenn.** Skirmishes near.
April 3, 1864. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864. Reports of*
Forrest, Nathan B. Grierson, Benjamin H. Waring, George E., jr.
April 9, 1864. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864. Report of Febles*, p. 584.
**Ralston, Lewis W.** Mentioned ..... 27, 28
**Ramsey, Alfred B.** Mentioned ..... 234
**Rankin, Daniel H.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 526
**Ratliff, ———.** Mentioned ..... 64
**Ratliffe, William.** Mentioned ..... 376
**Ravenot, Octave P. F.** Mentioned ..... 426, 430
**Rawlins, John A.** Report of operations in North Alabama, Jan. 23–29, 1864 .. 117
For correspondence as Chief of Staff, see *U. S. Grant.*
**Rawolle, William C.** Mentioned ..... 134, 138
For correspondence as A. A. A. G., see *Samuel D. Sturgis.*
**Ray, Harry.** Mentioned ..... 643
**Ray, John F.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 527
**Rayburn, N.** Mentioned ..... 355
**Raymond,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 507
**Read, Joseph C.** Statement of rations issued to destitute citizens in Department of the Cumberland ..... 17
**Reardon, ———.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Reardon, Benjamin F.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 639
**Reardon, David.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Reardon, George W.** Mentioned ..... 638, 639
**Reardon, Jacob L.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Reat, John W.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Recruitment, Organization, etc.** See *Union Troops.*
**Red Bone, Miss.** Skirmish at, April 21, 1864 * ..... 6
**Redmon, John F.** Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 639
**Reece, David.** Mentioned ..... 153
**Reece, William.** Mentioned ..... 153
**Reed, Joseph R.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Reed, Perry L.** Mentioned ..... 300
**Reed, Wiley M.** Mentioned ..... 609, 610, 616, 622
**Reed, William H. H.** Mentioned ..... 658
**Reeves, Leonard V.** Mentioned ..... 157
**Reichelderfer, John.** Mentioned ..... 153
**Reid, H. J.** Mentioned ..... 332
**Reid, Hugh T.**
Mentioned ..... 493, 508
Report of skirmish at Dukedom, Tenn., Feb. 28, 1864 ..... 485

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
Reid, William M. Mentioned ..... 200
Reilly, James W. Mentioned ..... 53
Reilly, John W. Mentioned ..... 51
Reneau, W. E. Mentioned ..... 329, 385
Renfrow, James. Mentioned ..... 381
Revelle, Cord. Mentioned ..... 564
Revelle, Hardy N.
Affidavit of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 528
Mentioned ..... 565
Reynolds, ———. Mentioned ..... 670
Reynolds, Alexander W. Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 483
Reynolds, Arthur E. Mentioned ..... 332
Reynolds, John. Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 641
Reynolds, William H. Mentioned ..... 683–685
Reynoldsburg, Tenn. Skirmish at, March 21, 1864. Report of Isaac R. Hawkins ..... 624
Rheatown, Tenn. Skirmish at, April 16, 1864 * ..... 6
Rheinlander, John. Mentioned ..... 169, 207
Rhoades, James W. Mentioned ..... 684
Rice, Calvin. Mentioned ..... 643
Richardson, ———. Mentioned ..... 152
Richardson, Robert V.
Correspondence with James H. Coates ..... 329
Mentioned ..... 208, 323–325, 329, 341, 343, 349, 352, 367, 368, 385–387, 390, 391, 583, 610, 612, 613
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 382
Richman, Charles P. Mentioned ..... 460
Richmond, James B. Mentioned ..... 64
Ricketts, William. Mentioned ..... 639
Rigney, Ferdinand D. Mentioned ..... 624
Riley, ———. Mentioned ..... 404
Riley, A. C. Mentioned ..... 333
Riley's Landing, Tenn. Expedition from Island No. 10 to, Feb. 17, 1864. Report of Robert M. Ekings ..... 404
Rinaker, John I. Mentioned ..... 508, 514
Ringgold, Ga.
Attack on Union pickets near. See *Taylor's Ridge, near Ringgold, Ga. Attack on Union pickets on, April 27, 1864.*
Reconnaissance from. See *Tunnel Hill, Ga. Reconnaissance from Ringgold toward, April 29, 1864.*
Scout from. See *La Fayette, Ga. Scout from Ringgold to, April 24–25, 1864.*
Skirmishes at.
Feb. 8, 1864* ..... 3
Feb. 18, 1864* ..... 3
Ripley, Miss.
Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April 30–May 9, 1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn.
Itineraries.
McMillen, William L. (1st Brigade, 1st Division, 16th Army Corps). 703
Waring, George E., jr. (1st Brigade, Cavalry Division, 16th Army Corps) ..... 701

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Ripley, Miss.**—Continued.
Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April 30–May 9, 1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn.
Reports of
Sturgis, Samuel D ... 695–698
Washburn, Cadwallader C ... 693, 694
Yorke, P. Jones ... 702
Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to, Jan. 23, 1864. Report of Edward Prince. 116
**Rippetoe, William B.** Mentioned ... 146
**Robb, Steamer.** Mentioned ... 575
**Robbins, Richard B.** Mentioned ... 35
**Roberts, Calvit.** Mentioned ... 333
**Roberts, Edward C.** Mentioned ... 491
**Roberts, E. J.** Mentioned ... 649
**Roberts, George H., jr.** Mentioned ... 584
**Robinson, Benjamin.** Testimony of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ... 529
**Robinson, Charles F.** Mentioned ... 91
**Robinson, Dick.** Mentioned ... 643
**Robinson, James E.**
Mentioned ... 123
Report of operations in North Alabama, Jan. 23–29, 1864 ... 125
**Robinson, James S.** Report of scouts to Caperton's Ferry, Ala., March 28, 1864 ... 644
**Roby, Jacob W.** Mentioned ... 419, 453
**Rocke, A. A.** Mentioned ... 61
**Rocky Face Ridge (or Crow's Valley), Ga.** Skirmish at. See *Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, and Rocky Face Ridge (or Crow's Valley). Skirmish at, Feb.* 24–25, 1864.
**Roddey, Philip D.** Mentioned ... 7, 8, 15, 117–122, 409, 476, 485, 488, 625, 664, 667, 671, 685, 687
**Rodgers, Alexander.** Mentioned ... 643
**Rodney, Miss.** Skirmish at, March 4, 1864* ... 4
**Rogers, Captain.** Mentioned ... 297
**Rogers, George C.** Mentioned ... 171, 238, 247
**Rogers, James B.** Mentioned ... 623
**Rogers, Samuel T.** Mentioned ... 461
**Rogers, W. T.** Mentioned ... 327, 328
**Rogersville and Bull's Gap, Tenn.** Reconnaissances from Powder Springs Gap toward, April 2–4, 1864. Reports of Thomas J. Wood ... 656, 657
**Rolfe, John.** Mentioned ... 234
**Rollins, W. W.** Mentioned ... 333
**Rome, Ga.** Expedition from Scottsborough, Ala., toward, Jan. 25–Feb. 5, 1864. Reports of
Logan, John A ... 127
Smith, Morgan L ... 128
**Rose, George.** Mentioned ... 475
**Rose, Lucius M.** Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 221
**Ross, George.** Mentioned ... 635, 639
**Ross, John.** Mentioned ... 231

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Ross, Lawrence S.**
Correspondence with
Coates, James H ..... 326, 327
McKee, George C ..... 327, 328
Mentioned ..... 174, 208, 316, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327–329, 331–333, 342, 343, 357, 358, 360, 362, 363, 365–371, 383–385
Reports of
Delta, Steamer. Attack on, on the Mississippi River, Jan. 6, 1864 ..... 66
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 385–387
Snyder's Bluff, Miss. Attack on outpost at, March 30, 1864 ..... 653
**Ross, Peter F.** Mentioned ..... 384, 671
**Ross, Samuel.** Mentioned ..... 32
**Rosser, Thomas H.** Mentioned ..... 334
**Rossville, Ga.**
Reconnaissance from. See *La Fayette, Ga. Reconnaissance from Rossville, to, April* 11–13, 1864.
Scout from. See *Dalton, Ga. Scout from Rossville toward, and skirmish* (22*d*), *Jan.* 21–23, 1864.
**Rousseau, Lovell H.** Mentioned ..... 19, 25
**Rowe, John,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 623
**Roys, F.** Mentioned ..... 157
**Rucker, E. W.** Mentioned ..... 586
**Rudolph, Oscar.** Mentioned ..... 702
**Rufins, Ann Jane.**
Mentioned ..... 565
Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 530
**Rufins, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 530
**Ruggles, Daniel.** Mentioned ..... 334, 336, 352
**Rusk, Jeremiah M.**
Mentioned ..... 169, 503, 509
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 205
**Russell, R. M.** Mentioned ..... 342, 355, 543, 557
**Ryan, A. T.** Mentioned ..... 622
**Sadler, Joseph.** Mentioned ..... 235
**Sallee, Oliver.** Mentioned ..... 633, 634, 636
**Salyersville, Ky.** Skirmish at, April 16, 1864. See *Eastern Kentucky. Operations in, March* 28–*April* 16, 1864. *Report of Hobson,* p. 645.
**Samuels, A. H.** Mentioned ..... 61
**Sanders, Addison H.**
Mentioned ..... 170
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 225
**Sanders, Felix.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Sanderson, Julian.** Mentioned ..... 628
**Satartia, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 7, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Report of Coates,* p. 318.
**Savage, Edward G.**
Mentioned ..... 87, 88
Reports of Dandridge, Tenn.
Operations about, including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 88
Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 148
**Sayers, David G.** Mentioned ..... 412

Page.
**Scammon, Eliakim P.** Mentioned ..... 395
**Schnitzer, Gustavus.** Mentioned ..... 293
**Schofield, John M.**
Assignments to command ..... 2, 5
Assumes command of Army of the Ohio ..... 3
Assumes command of 23d Army Corps ..... 5
Mentioned ..... 8, 14, 15, 23, 46, 48, 49
Reports of
Greeneville, Tenn. Skirmish near, April 15, 1864 ..... 670
Watauga River, Tenn. Expedition from Bull's Gap to, April 25–27, 1864 ..... 686
**Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn.** Skirmish at. See *Sevierville, Tenn. Affair at (13th), and skirmish at Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th), Jan.* 13–14, 1864.
**Schurz, Carl.**
Assignment to command ..... 2
Itinerary of 3d Division, 11th Army Corps, Jan., 1864 ..... 25
Mentioned ..... 25
**Schweitzer, George.** Mentioned ..... 702
**Scofield, Hiram.**
Itinerary of 2d Brigade, 1st Division, U. S. C. T., 17th Army Corps. Expedition up the Yazoo River, Miss., April 19–23, 1864, with skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel ..... 674
Mentioned ..... 673, 675
**Scott, E. A.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Scott, George.** Mentioned ..... 374
**Scott, James M.** Mentioned ..... 222
**Scott, John.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Scott, Thomas M.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Scottsborough, Ala.** Expedition from. See *Rome, Ga. Expedition from Scottsborough, Ala., toward, Jan.* 25–*Feb.* 5, 1864.
**Scovill, Horace C.** Mentioned ..... 679, 680
**Scribner, Benjamin F.** Mentioned ..... 30
**Scroggins, ———.** Mentioned ..... 103
**Scruggs, P. T.** Mentioned ..... 595, 605, 617, 618
**Seay, Abraham J.** Mentioned ..... 116, 419, 422, 467
**Seddon, James A.** Mentioned ..... 476, 477
For correspondence, etc., see *War Department, C. S.*
**Seeley, Oscar A.** Mentioned ..... 436
**Seley, Abel H.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Selfridge, Robert O.** Report of affair at Louisville, Tenn., March 27, 1864 ..... 628
**Senatobia, Miss.** Skirmishes at and near, Feb. 8–9, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Reports of Forrest*, p. 347; *Lee*, p. 362.
**Sequatchie Valley, Tenn.** Skirmish in the, Feb. 27, 1864* ..... 3
**Sevierville, Tenn.**
Affair at (13th), and skirmish at Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th), Jan. 13–14, 1864.
Communications from
Elliott, Washington L ..... 74
War Department, C. S ..... 77

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Sevierville, Tenn.**—Continued.
Affair at (13th), and skirmish at Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th), Jan. 13–14, 1864.
Reports of
Foster, John G ... 73
Grant, U. S ... 73
Palmer, John B ... 76
Palmer, William J ... 75
Sturgis, Samuel D ... 74
Reconnaissance from Maryville toward, Feb. 1–2, 1864. Reports of
Beatty, Samuel ... 160
Brownlow, James P ... 161
Skirmishes at.
Jan 26, 1864* ... 2
Feb. 18, 1864* ... 3
**Sevierville Road, near Knoxville, Tenn.** Skirmish on, February 20, 1864. Reports of
Hascall, Milo S ... 409
Klein, Robert ... 410
**Shacklett, A. R.** Mentioned ... 333
**Shane, John.** Mentioned ... 170
**Shanks, John P. C.**
Mentioned ... 113, 171, 258, 263–265, 274, 275
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including operations since Jan. 22, 1864 ... 272
**Shappell, Nelson.** Mentioned ... 153
**Sharon, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 27, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Jackson, William H. Lee, Stephen D. Starke, Peter B.
**Shaw, William T.**
Itinerary of 2d Brigade, 3d Division, 16th Army Corps. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 200
Mentioned ... 169, 191, 200
**Shedd, Warren.** Mentioned ... 170
**Sheets, Benjamin F.** Report of attack on Union pickets at Nickajack Trace, Ga., April 23, 1864 ... 679
**Sheetz, Josiah A.** Mentioned ... 170
**Shelborne, Miner.** Mentioned ... 635, 638, 642, 643
**Shelby, David.** Mentioned ... 419, 422, 467
**Sheldon, Hiram A.** Mentioned ... 103
**Shellenberger, Samuel L.** Mentioned ... 306–308
**Shenango, Steamer.** Mentioned ... 396
**Shepard, Isaac F.** Itinerary of 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 17th Army Corps. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ... 332
**Shepley, George F.**
Mentioned ... 554
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ... 572
**Sheridan, Philip H.** Mentioned ... 18, 22–24, 79
**Sherman, Francis T.** Mentioned ... 22, 23
**Sherman, Sandy.** Mentioned ... 529

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

**Sherman, William T.**
Assignment to command ..... 4
Assumes command of Military Division of the Mississippi ..... 4
Congratulatory Orders. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 187
Correspondence with
Adjutant-General's Office, U. S. A ..... 260
Hicks, Stephen G ..... 579
Hurlbut, Stephen A ..... 179
McPherson, James B ..... 180, 183, 326, 401, 555
Owen, Elias K ..... 184
Porter, David D ..... 183
Smith, William Sooy ..... 181
Thomas, George H ..... 668
Veatch, James C ..... 577, 579, 581
Mentioned ..... 8–10, 120, 168, 173, 178, 182, 187–190, 195, 197, 200, 201, 210, 217, 230, 250, 251, 254, 257–260, 318, 320, 321, 330, 336–338, 340–343, 348, 351, 358, 359, 367–370, 380, 387, 389, 401, 402, 453, 477, 502, 503, 505, 508–511, 513, 514, 517, 518, 574–577, 579, 668, 695
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 173
**Sherwood, Isaac R.** Report of scout near Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 13, 1864 .. 392
**Shipman, M.** Mentioned ..... 580
**Shirk, James W.** Mentioned ..... 513
**Shoal Creek, Ala.** Skirmish at, Jan. 14, 1864 * ..... 1
**Shoemaker, John W.** Mentioned ..... 274
**Shumake, Mrs.** Mentioned ..... 655
**Shumake, Nathan.** Mentioned ..... 655, 656
**Sickler, Abram B.** Mentioned ..... 683
**Silver Cloud, U. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 536, 599
**Simmons, J. F.** Mentioned ..... 371
**Simms, Patrick.** Mentioned ..... 392
**Simonson, Peter.**
Mentioned ..... 419, 427
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 443
**Simonson, Samuel E. W.** Mentioned ..... 274
**Sims, Robert M.** Mentioned ..... 309
**Sinclair, William H.** Mentioned ..... 428, 475
**Sioux City, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 317, 320
**Sipes, Abram B.** Mentioned ..... 40
**Sipes, William B.** Mentioned ..... 39
**Sippel, Philip.** Mentioned ..... 233
**Sir William Wallace, Steamer.**
Firing on, in Mississippi River, Jan. 29, 1864. Report of Edwin Moore ... 156
Mentioned ..... 319, 320, 325
**Sketches.**
Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 133
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Yazoo Expedition. 331
**Skinner, David T.** Mentioned ..... 273, 274
**Skinner, Lucius B.** Report of scout from Memphis, Tenn., toward Hernando, Miss., Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 65
**Slack, James R.** Mentioned ..... 631
**Slater, ———.** Mentioned ..... 627
**Slemons, William F.** Mentioned ..... 334

*No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
Slocum, Henry W.
Itineraries of 12th Army Corps, Jan.–March, 1864 ..... 26–28
Mentioned ..... 18, 24, 26, 32
Slocum, Paul E. Mentioned ..... 420, 464, 466, 467
Slover, John C. Mentioned ..... 126
Smith, ———. (Captain.) Mentioned ..... 498
Smith, ———. (Citizen.) Mentioned ..... 394
Smith, ———. (Guerrilla.) Mentioned ..... 677
Smith, ———. (Major.) Mentioned ..... 163
Smith, Alexander J. Mentioned ..... 262
Smith, Anderson. Mentioned ..... 566
Smith, Andrew J.
Correspondence with George E. Waring, jr ..... 265
Mentioned ..... 112, 169, 172, 190, 191, 194–196, 200, 202, 203
Smith, Benjamin.
Mentioned ..... 87, 88
Report of operations about Dandridge, Tenn., including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 88
Smith, Charles B. Mentioned ..... 514
Smith, Charles C.
Mentioned ..... 656, 657
Report of scout from Ringgold to La Fayette, Ga., April 24–25, 1864 ..... 685
Smith, Charles K., jr. Mentioned ..... 21
Smith, C. T. Mentioned ..... 622
Smith, Felix R. R. Mentioned ..... 668
Smith, Francis A.
Mentioned ..... 519
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 563
Smith, Francis M. Mentioned ..... 170
Smith, George W. Mentioned ..... 419
Smith, Giles A.
Mentioned ..... 487
Report of expedition from Larkin's Landing to Gourd Neck and Guntersville, Ala., March 2–3, 1864 ..... 486
Smith, G. P. Mentioned ..... 640
Smith, Gustavus F.
Mentioned ..... 392
Report of scout near Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 13, 1864 ..... 392
Smith, Henry. Mentioned ..... 487, 664, 665, 667
Smith, Horace J. Mentioned ..... 121
Smith, Horatio M. Mentioned ..... 21
Smith, James A. Mentioned ..... 429
Smith, James D. Mentioned ..... 153
Smith, John C. Mentioned ..... 419, 422
Smith, John E. Mentioned ..... 163
Smith, John H. Mentioned ..... 438
Smith, John W. Mentioned ..... 160
Smith, Malcom F. Mentioned ..... 534, 536–540
Smith, Michael. Mentioned ..... 149
Smith, Morgan L.
Mentioned ..... 127, 677
Reports of
Larkinsville, Ala. Affair near, Feb. 14, 1864 ..... 393
Rome, Ga. Expedition from Scottsborough, Ala., toward, Jan. 25–Feb. 5, 1864 ..... 128

Page.
**Smith, Norman M.** Mentioned ..... 287, 289
**Smith, Orland.** Mentioned ..... 32
**Smith, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 638
**Smith, Thomas A.** Mentioned ..... 543
**Smith, Thomas E.** Mentioned ..... 513, 549
**Smith, Thomas Kilby.** Mentioned ..... 171, 193, 211, 214, 238
**Smith, William E.** Mentioned ..... 229, 236, 237
**Smith, William Sooy.**
Correspondence with
McMillen, William L ..... 197
Sherman, William T ..... 181
Waring, George E., jr ..... 267
Mentioned ..... 35, 37, 168, 171, 173–177, 179, 180, 182, 183, 189, 193–195, 199, 203, 250, 260–262, 265–268, 271, 274, 276, 279, 282, 287–289, 292–294, 302, 303, 307, 311, 313–315, 347, 349–351, 364, 370, 377
Reports of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including expedition from Memphis, Tenn., and operations since Dec. 28, 1863 ..... 251, 254
**Smith, William T.** Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 568
**Snodgrass, John.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Snyder's Bluff, Miss.** Attack on outpost at, March 30, 1864. Report of Lawrence S. Ross ..... 653
**Souden, Jason.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 524
**South Carolina Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Battalions:* **Palmetto** (*Batteries*), **B**, 333, 360, 363, 373.
Miscellaneous—**Hampton Legion**, 79, 82, 85.
**South Western**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 325
**Sparta, Tenn.**
Operations about, Jan. 4–14, 1864. Report of Thomas J. Harrison ..... 65
See also *general report of Thomas*, p. 7.
Operations about, including skirmishes on Calfkiller Creek and near Beersheba Springs, March 11–28, 1864. Report of William B. Stokes. 494
**Spear, Edward, jr.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Spears, James G.**
Itinerary of 1st East Tennessee Brigade, 23d Army Corps, Jan., 1864 ..... 50
Mentioned ..... 50, 52
**Spoor, Nelson T.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Springer, George A.** Mentioned ..... 683, 684
**Spring Hill, Tenn.** Skirmish at, March 13, 1864* ..... 4
**Stackhouse, William P.** Mentioned ..... 421
**Stamps, Daniel.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 530
**Stancill, Ruel M.** Mentioned ..... 381
**Stanley, David S.** Mentioned ..... 7, 8, 14, 23, 24
**Stanley, Timothy R.**
Itinerary of Engineer Troops, Army of the Cumberland, Jan., Feb., 1864 ... 40
Mentioned ..... 40
**Stanley, William.** Mentioned ..... 652
**Stansbury, Howard E.** Mentioned ..... 428, 432, 444

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
Stanton, Edwin M. Mentioned ..... 305, 513, 586
For correspondence, etc., see *War Department, U. S.*
Starke, Peter B.
Mentioned ..... 174, 209, 227, 249, 333, 360–363, 365, 366, 368–371, 373, 381, 674
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 374
Starkweather, John C. Mentioned ..... 30, 102
Starr, Mathew H.
Mentioned ..... 171, 258, 290, 291
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 293
Steede, A. C. Mentioned ..... 361, 362
Steele, Frederick. Mentioned ..... 184
Steele, John W. Mentioned ..... 428
Stegman, Lewis R. Report of scout from Stevenson to Caperton's Ferry, Ala., and vicinity, April 11, 1864 ..... 659
Steinwehr, Adolph von.
Itinerary of 2d Division, 11th Army Corps, March, 1864 ..... 26
Mentioned ..... 26
Stephens, M. D. L. Mentioned ..... 332
Stephens, Meshack. Mentioned ..... 315
Stepp, Jackson.
Mentioned ..... 95, 97
Report of skirmish at Big Springs, near Tazewell, Tenn., Jan. 19, 1864 ..... 95
Sterling, William. Mentioned ..... 475
Steuben, Frederick W. Mentioned ..... 683
Stevens, Henry. Mentioned ..... 635
Stevens, Uzziel. Mentioned ..... 428
Stevens' and Frick's Gaps, Ga. Scout from Whiteside's, Tenn., to, Feb. 25–26, 1864. Report of Stephen J. McGroarty ..... 484
Stevenson, Ala. Scout from. See *Caperton's Ferry, Ala., and vicinity. Scout from Stevenson to, April* 11, 1864.
Stevenson, Carter L. Mentioned ..... 15, 429, 433, 477, 484
Stewart, ———. Mentioned ..... 685
Stewart, Alexander P.
Correspondence with Thomas C. Hindman ..... 477
Mentioned ..... 15, 429, 431, 433, 457, 479, 480
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 477
Stewart, Archibald. Mentioned ..... 194
Stewart, James W. Mentioned ..... 673
Stewart, Jerry.
Mentioned ..... 536
Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 537
Stibbs, John H. Mentioned ..... 169
Stickney, Clifford. Mentioned ..... 222
Stigler, James M. Mentioned ..... 332
Stimming, Theodore. Mentioned ..... 497
Stineback, William C.
Mentioned ..... 420
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 465
Stinson, Robert B. Mentioned ..... 459, 460
Stockdale, Thomas R. Mentioned ..... 333, 372–374
Stockwell, ———. Mentioned ..... 500
Stoddard, Richard. Mentioned ..... 639

Page.

**Stokes, William B.**
Mentioned ..... 8, 16, 156
Reports of
Calfkiller Creek, Tenn. Skirmish on, Feb. 22, 1864 ..... 416
Sparta, Tenn. Operations about, including skirmishes on Calfkiller Creek, and near Beersheba Springs, March 11–28, 1864 ..... 494
White and Putnam Counties, Tenn. Scout in, Feb. 1–7, 1864 ..... 162
**Stone, ———.** (Citizen of East Tennessee.) Mentioned ..... 103
**Stone, ———.** (Citizen of West Tennessee.) Mentioned ..... 535
**Stone, George A.** Mentioned ..... 129
**Stone Church, near Catoosa Platform, Ga.** Skirmish at the, Feb. 27, 1864. See *Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864. Reports of* Cruft, Charles. Van Antwerp, William W. Wheeler, Joseph.
**Stoneman, George.***
Assignments to command ..... 2, 5
Assumes command of 23d Army Corps ..... 3
Itineraries of 23d Army Corps, Jan.–April, 1864 ..... 49–54
Mentioned ..... 49, 52, 650
**Stovall, Marcellus A.***
Mentioned ..... 477, 478, 481
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 479
**Stover, William D.** Mentioned ..... 142, 145, 146
**Strange, J. P.** Mentioned ..... 355
**Strawberry Plains, Tenn.** Skirmish at, Feb. 20, 1864* ..... 3
**Strawberry Plains and Armstrong's Ferry, Tenn.** Skirmishes at, Jan. 21–22, 1864. Reports of
Ferrero, Edward ..... 104
Gittings, Erskine ..... 108
Willcox, Orlando B ..... 106, 107
**Street, Ogden.** Mentioned ..... 420
**Strength of Troops.** See *Organization, Strength, etc.*
**Strickland, William T.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Strock, John L.**
Correspondence with Smith D. Atkins ..... 681
Mentioned ..... 680
**Strong, James H.** For correspondence as A. I. G., see *John G. Foster.*
**Strong, William E.** Mentioned ..... 227
**Sturgis, Samuel D.**
Congratulations of John G. Foster. Operations about Dandridge, Tenn., Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 138
Correspondence with
Elliott, Washington L ..... 74, 83
Foster, John G ..... 111, 138
McCook, Edward M ..... 111, 142
Mentioned ..... 34, 35, 41, 42, 44–46, 73, 79, 81–84, 111, 130, 131, 142, 586, 587, 593, 693–695, 702, 703
Reports of
Dandridge, Tenn.
Operations about, including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 79, 80
Operations about, Jan. 26–28, 1864 ..... 131, 132, 134, 135

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.

Sturgis, Samuel D.—Continued.
Reports of
Newport, Tenn. Skirmish near, Jan. 23, 1864 ..... 114
Ripley, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April 30–May 9, 1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn ..... 695–698
Sevierville, Tenn. Affair at (13th), and skirmish at Schultz's Mill, Cosby Creek, Tenn. (14th), Jan. 13–14, 1864 ..... 74
Wilsonville, Tenn. Capture of forage wagons near, Jan. 22, 1864 .... 110
Subligna, Ga. Affair at, Jan. 22, 1864. Report of Alfred Iverson ..... 112
Subsistence Stores. See *Munitions of War.*
Sudsburg, Joseph M.
Mentioned ..... 99
Report of skirmish at Tracy City, Tenn., Jan. 20, 1864 ..... 100
Sullivan, Thomas W. Mentioned ..... 305, 307
Sullivan, W. R. Mentioned ..... 622
Sullivant, Lyne S. Mentioned ..... 420
Sulphur Springs, Tenn. Skirmish at, Feb. 26, 1864* ..... 3
Sulphur Springs Road, Ala. Affair on. See *Kelly's Plantation, Sulphur Springs Road, Ala. Affair near, April* 11, 1864.
Sunnyside Landing, Ark. Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to, Jan. 10–16, 1864. Itinerary of John A. Maltby (3d Brigade, 3d Division, 17th Army Corps) ..... 69
Swaim, A. Mentioned ..... 355
Swan, L. M. Mentioned ..... 668
Swann's Island, Tenn. Skirmish at. See *Fain's Island, etc. Skirmishes at, Jan.* 28, 1864.
Sweeny, Thomas W. Mentioned ..... 195
Sweet, H. A. Mentioned ..... 505
Swim, Alfred. Mentioned ..... 635
Switzerland, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 400
Sykes, Thomas B. Mentioned ..... 371
Symms, William H. Mentioned ..... 243
Tallahatchie River, Miss. Skirmish on the, Feb. 22, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Communications from Forrest,* p. 341; *Lee,* p. 341.
Tallent, Jephtha. Mentioned ..... 103
Talmadge, Isaac M. Mentioned ..... 530
Tangesley, Samuel. Mentioned ..... 540
Tanner, Adolphus H.
Mentioned ..... 500
Report of raid on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, near Tullahoma, Tenn., March 16, 1864 ..... 499
Tanner, John L. Mentioned ..... 102
Tansil, Egbert E. Mentioned ..... 543
Tate, Samuel. Correspondence with Leonidas Polk ..... 344
Tate, Thomas S. Mentioned ..... 355
Taylor, Alfred K. Mentioned ..... 446, 448, 462
Taylor, Jacob E. Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 427
Taylor, James N. Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 531
Taylor, J. E. Mentioned ..... 639
Taylor, John T. Mentioned ..... 635, 638, 641
Taylor, Marsh B. Mentioned ..... 421

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Taylor, Richard.** Mentioned ..... 184
**Taylor's Ridge, Ga.** Skirmish at, April 14, 1864* ..... 6
**Taylor's Ridge, near Ringgold, Ga.** Attack on Union pickets on, April 27, 1864. Report of Judson Kilpatrick ..... 687
**Tazewell, Tenn.**
Skirmish at, Jan. 24, 1864. Report of Theophilus T. Garrard ..... 127
See also *general report of Foster*, p. 42.
Skirmish near, Jan. 19, 1864. See *Big Springs, near Tazewell, Tenn. Skirmish at, Jan.* 19, 1864.
**Tennessee, C. S. S.** Mentioned ..... 402
**Tennessee.** Operations in. See Summary, pp. 1–6.
**Tennessee, Army of.** (Confederate.) John B. Hood assigned to command of Army Corps in ..... 3
**Tennessee, Army of the.** (Union.)
Blair, Frank P., jr., assigned to command of 17th Army Corps ..... 6
Hurlbut, Stephen A., relieved from command of 16th Army Corps ..... 6
McPherson, James B.
Assigned to command of ..... 4
Assumes command of ..... 5
Orders, General, series 1864: **April 28** (*Prince*), 516; **No. 6** (*Veatch*), 580; **No. 15** (*Brayman*), 514.
Orders, Special, series 1864: **No. 42** (*McArthur*), 395; **No. 60** (*McArthur*), 399; **No 61** (*Hurlbut*), 578.
Orders, Special Field, series 1864: **No. 11**, 182; **No. 16**, 185; **No. 17**, 186; **Nos. 18, 19, 20**, 187; **No. 21**, 188; **No. 22**, 189; **No. 24**, 190.
Organization, strength, etc., Feb. 3, 1864 ..... 168–172
Prince, Henry.
Assigned to command of the District of Columbus, Ky ..... 515
Assumes command of the District of Columbus, Ky ..... 516
**Tennessee, Department of the.** (Union.) Movements and disposition of troops in. Communications from
Dodge, Grenville M ..... 579
McArthur, John ..... 395, 399
McPherson, James B ..... 515, 516
**Tennessee River.**
List of steamers plying on the upper ..... 21
Reconnaissance down. See *Triana, Ala. Reconnaissance from Bridgeport down the Tennessee River to vicinity of, April* 12–16, 1864.
**Tennessee Troops.** Mentioned. (Confederate.)
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **Lookout**, 332; **Morton's**, 353, 609, 619.
Cavalry—*Battalions:* **9th**, 333; **Hamilton's**, 155; **McDonald's**, 355, 610, 623. *Companies:* **Forrest Guards**, 355. *Regiments:* **17th** [?], 331; **Ashby's**, 658; **Barteau's**, 333, 351, 354, 355, 379, 596, 615, 621; **Carter's**, 672; **Dibrell's**, 68, 410; **Duckworth's**, 334, 351, 354, 355, 557, 610; **McLemore's**, 410; **Neely's**, 331, 384, 386; **Newsom's**, 70; **Richardson's**, 383; **Rucker's Legion**, 496; **Russell's**, 355, 621; **Baxter Smith's**, 658; **Stewart's**, 331, 384, 385; **Wilson's**, 355, 621.
**Tennessee Troops.** Mentioned. (Union.)
Cavalry—*Battalions:* **Bradford's**,† 520, 529, 535, 538, 539, 554–556, 559–565, 569, 571. *Regiments:* **1st**, 82, 88, 96, 110, 140, 142–144, 147, 161; **2d**, 172, 194, 252, 255, 303–305, 309, 311–313, 315; **3d**, 172, 194, 255, 258, 259, 264, 304, 305, 313, 314; **4th**, 172, 194, 255, 295, 303–305, 310, 313–315; **5th**, 16, 55, 162, 163, 416, 417, 494, 495; **6th**, 289, 581, 602; **7th**, 69, 70, 495, 496, 506, 542–546, 607, 623; **11th**, 58, 59, 153, 411, 412.

* No circumstantial reports on file. †Also called 13th Regiment.

Page.

**Tennessee Troops.** Mentioned. (Union)—Continued.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **2d Mounted**, 575; **3d**, 50, 51, 126, 491; **4th**, 51, 52, 409; **5th**, **6th**, **8th**, 50, 51.
**Terman's Ferry, Ky.** Skirmish at, Jan. 9, 1864. Report of Rhys M. Thomas. 67
**Texas Troops.** Mentioned.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **3d**, 331, 333, 383, 387, 388, 390, 653, 671; **6th**, 318, 326, 331, 333, 365, 384, 389, 390, 671; **7th**, 331; **8th**, 90; **9th**, 331, 333, 365, 385, 387, 389, 390, 653, 671; **10th**, 333; **11th**, 90, 393; **14th**, 333; **27th**,* 333, 383, 384, 388; **32d**, 333.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **9th**, 333.
Miscellaneous—**Waul's Legion**, 355.
**Thielemann, Christian.** Mentioned ..... 57, 58
**Thomas E. Tutt**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 396
**Thomas, F. P.** Mentioned ..... 619
**Thomas, George.** Mentioned ..... 643
**Thomas, George H.**
Correspondence with
Granger, Gordon ..... 14, 485
Long, Eli ..... 469
Palmer, John M ..... 449–451
Parkhurst, John G ..... 22
Porter, Andrew P ..... 12
Sherman, William T ..... 668
Whipple, William D ..... 449, 450
Itinerary of Army of the Cumberland, Jan. 1–April 30, 1864 ..... 22–40
Mentioned ..... 18, 31, 38, 39, 43, 65, 83, 97, 120, 128, 129, 417, 446, 448, 449, 457, 462, 477, 495, 625, 663, 676, 678, 688, 690, 691
Reports of operations in Department of the Cumberland, Jan. 1–April 30, 1864 ..... 6, 14, 18
**Thomas, Lorenzo.** Mentioned ..... 514, 643
**Thomas, Rhys M.** Report of skirmish at Terman's Ferry, Ky., Jan. 9, 1864 .. 67
**Thomas, William H.** Mentioned ..... 46, 75, 76, 137, 159
**Thompson, A. P.** Mentioned ..... 333, 504, 506, 542, 547, 548, 551, 607, 608
**Thompson, James H.** Mentioned ..... 436
**Thompson, James W.** Mentioned ..... 430
**Thompson, John.** Mentioned ..... 537
**Thompson, John B.**
Mentioned ..... 414
Reports of
Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, Va. Skirmishes at, on Indian Creek, and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864 ..... 415
Jonesville, Va. Action at, Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 61
**Thomson, Chester G.** Mentioned ..... 309
**Thomson, David.** Mentioned ..... 644
**Thornburgh, Jacob M.**
Mentioned ..... 172, 295, 303, 305, 307, 310
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 314
**Thornbury, Martin.** Mentioned ..... 647, 648
**Thornhill, Bryant.** Mentioned ..... 638, 639
**Thornton, Charles C. G.** Mentioned ..... 573, 574
**Thrall, James C.** Mentioned ..... 383–385
**Thurmand, James G.** Mentioned ..... 329, 384, 386
**Tichnor, H. P.** Mentioned ..... 635
**Tiemeyer, John H.** Mentioned ..... 170

* Also called 1st Texas Legion.

Page.
**Tillson, Davis.** Mentioned ..... 51
**Tindale, ———.** Mentioned ..... 381
**Tippah River, Miss.** Skirmish at, Feb. 24, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Browne, Thomas M. McCrillis, La Fayette. Waring, George E., jr.
**Tipton, Stephen P.** Mentioned ..... 98, 99
**Toland, B. F.** Mentioned ..... 635, 643
**Toland, G. W.** Mentioned ..... 643
**Torrey, William H.** Mentioned ..... 90, 91
**Tourtellotte, John E.** Report of operations about Whitesburg, Ala., Feb. 2, 1864 ..... 163
**Townsend, Edward D.** Mentioned ..... 514, 606
**Tracy, Albert.** Mentioned ..... 419
**Tracy City, Tenn.** Skirmish at, Jan. 20, 1864.
Communications from
Bledsoe, Willis S ..... 98
Ross, Samuel ..... 100
Reports of
George, John F ..... 101
Sudsburg, Joseph M ..... 100
Wooster, William B ..... 97
See also *general report of Thomas*, p. 7.
**Trade and Intercourse.** See *McArthur to Coates*, p. 330; *report of Brayman*, p. 512; *orders of Brayman*, p. 514.
**Trafton, George W.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 258, 290, 293
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 295
**Trans-Alleghany Department.** See *Virginia, Trans-Alleghany or Western Department of.*
**Transportation, Army.** See *Munitions of War.*
**Transportation.** (Railroad and water.) See *Meridian Expedition, etc. Railroads, Destruction of.*
**Trenton, Tenn.** Expedition from Union City to, Jan. 22–27, 1864. Report of George E. Waring, jr ..... 112
See also *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc. Reports of*
Kargé, Joseph. Shanks, John P. C. Waring, George E., jr.
Moore, Franklin.
**Triana, Ala.** Reconnaissance from Bridgeport down the Tennessee River to vicinity of, April 12–16, 1864.
Communication from George H. Thomas ..... 668
Report of John W. Geary ..... 663
**Tricket, Edward.** Mentioned ..... 308
**Tripp, Stephen S.** Mentioned ..... 171
**Troublesome Creek, Ky.** Skirmish on, April 27, 1864. Report of John M. Brown ..... 687
**True, Clinton J.** Mentioned ..... 645, 646
**True, James M.** Mentioned ..... 630, 631
**Tullahoma, Tenn.** Raid near. See *Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, near Tullahoma, Tenn. Raid on the, March 16, 1864.*
**Tullis, John.** Mentioned ..... 157
**Tunnel Hill, Ga.**
Reconnaissance from Ringgold toward, April 29, 1864.
Communications from
Allen, William W ..... 692
Camp, ———. ..... 692
Humes, William Y. C ..... 692

Page.

**Tunnel Hill, Ga.**—Continued.
Reconnaissance from Ringgold toward, April 29, 1864.
Reports of
Baird, Absalom ..... 690
Humes, William Y. C ..... 691, 692
Kilpatrick, Judson ..... 688
Ward, Edward W ..... 689
Skirmish at. See *Dalton, Ga. Skirmishes near, and at Catoosa Station and Tunnel Hill, Feb.* 23, 1864.

**Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, and Rocky Face Ridge (or Crow's Valley), Ga.** Skirmishes at, Feb. 24–25, 1864. See *Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb.* 22–27, 1864. *Reports of*

Bennett, John E.
Carey, Oliver H. P.
Champion, Thomas E.
Clayton, Henry D.
Cockerill, Armstead T. M.
Cruft, Charles.
Cumming, Alfred.
Davis, Jefferson C.
Dickerman, Willard A.
Grose, William.
Heilman, William H.
Higley, John H.
Hotchkiss, T. R.
Hurd, Orrin D.
Johnson, Richard W.
Johnston, Joseph E.
Kilgour, William M.
Long, Eli.
McCook, Daniel.
Morgan, James D.
Reynolds, Alexander W.
Simonson, Peter.
Stewart, Alexander P.
Stineback, William C.
Stovall, Marcellus A.
Turchin, John B.
Van Antwerp, William W.
Waddell, James F.
Waters, Louis H.

**Turchin, John B.**
Itinerary of 1st Brigade, 3d Division, 14th Army Corps, March, 1864 ..... 31
Mentioned ..... 31, 420, 465, 466
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 462
**Turner, H. N.** Mentioned ..... 638
**Tutt, Thomas E.**, Steamer. Mentioned ..... 396
**Tuttle, James M.**
Itinerary of 1st Division, 16th Army Corps. Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 196
Mentioned ..... 168, 172, 188, 194
**Tycoon**, Steamer. Extract from log-book of ..... 505
**Tyler, R. C.** Mentioned ..... 476
**Tyndale, Hector.**
Itinerary of 3d Division, 11th Army Corps, March, 1864 ..... 26
Mentioned ..... 25, 26, 32
**Underhill, S. M.** Mentioned ..... 368
**Underwood, Manuel.** Mentioned ..... 536
**Union, Miss.** Skirmishes at, Feb. 21–22, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb.* 3–*March* 6, 1864. *Report of Veatch*, p. 202.
**Union City, Tenn.**
Capture of, March 24, 1864. See *West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March* 16–*April* 14, 1864. *Reports of*

Beatty, John W.
Brayman, Mason.
Forrest, Nathan B.
Gray, Thomas P.
Helmer, Robert W.

Expedition from. See *Trenton, Tenn. Expedition from Union City to, Jan.* 22–27, 1864.
Skirmish near, March 12, 1864. Report of Isaac R. Hawkins ..... 495
**Union Troops.**
Casualties. Returns of.
Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 14, 421, 458, 460, 465
Dandridge, Tenn. Operations about, etc., Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 86
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 .... 191–194, 200, 204

Page.

**Union Troops**—Continued.
Mentioned.
*Colored.*
Artillery, Heavy—*Regiments:* **4th**, 492; **6th**,* 524, 538, 539, 554–556, 559, 561, 568–570. *Batteries:* **8th**,† 548.
Artillery, Light—*Regiments:* **2d** (*Batteries*), **D**,‡ 538, 556, 559, 566–569.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **3d**,§ 172, 194, 316, 317, 319, 321–324, 331, 332, 674, 675.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **14th**, 495; **47th**,‖ 172, 183, 184, 194, 316–318, 320, 321, 323, 324, 331; **48th**,¶ 325, 332; **50th**,** 395–400; **51st**, 627; **55th**, 555; **66th**, 627.
Veteran Reserve Corps—*Regiments:* **23d**, 631.
*Regulars.*
Artillery, Light—*Regiments:* **3d** (*Batteries*), **L** and **M**,†† 105–109; **4th** (*Batteries*), **F**, 12, 27; **H**, 419, 422, 426, 432, 434, 437, 443–445; **5th** (*Batteries*), **H**, 30; **K**, 12, 29.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **4th**, 35, 37, 39, 172, 194, 255, 257, 258, 267, 268, 275, 283, 304, 305, 308, 312, 313, 315, 352.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **15th** (*Battalions*), **1st**, 419; **2d**, 30, 31; **16th**, (*Battalions*), **1st**, 419; **18th** (*Battalions*), **1st**, **2d**, 419; **19th**, (*Battalions*), **1st**, 419.
For Volunteers, see respective States.
Organization, strength, etc.
Cumberland, Army of the ..... 419–421
Tennessee, Army of the ..... 168–172
Recruitment, organization, etc. See *general report of Thomas*, p. 16.
**Upson, Andrew.** Mentioned ..... 97–101
**Valentine, Mrs.** Mentioned ..... 398
**Van Antwerp, William W.**
Mentioned ..... 407, 419, 422, 425, 426, 428, 432
Reports of
Burke's and Ellidge's Mills, Ga. Scout from Ooltewah, Tenn., to, Feb. 18–19, 1864 ..... 408
Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 474
**Van Buskirk, Matthew.**
Mentioned ..... 123
Report of operations in North Alabama, Jan. 23–29, 1864 ..... 123
**Vance, Robert B.** Mentioned ..... 46, 73–77, 82
**Vance, Zebulon B.** Mentioned ..... 73–75
**Vanderford, C. F.** Mentioned ..... 342, 343
**Van Derveer, Ferdinand.**
Itinerary of 2d Brigade, 3d Division, 14th Army Corps, April, 1864 ..... 31
Mentioned ..... 19, 31, 420, 427, 462–464, 690

* Originally 1st Alabama Siege Artillery; afterward 7th U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery; finally 11th U. S. C. T. (new).
† Formerly 1st Kentucky Heavy Artillery, A. D.
‡ Afterward Battery F.
§ Formerly 1st Mississippi Cavalry, A. D.
‖ Formerly 8th Louisiana, A. D.
¶ Formerly 10th Louisiana, A. D.
** Formerly 12th Louisiana, A. D.
†† Consolidated.

Page.
Van Dervort, Joshua. Mentioned ..... 234
Van Horn, Daniel.
Mentioned ..... 519, 539, 554, 570
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 569
Van Horn, John. Mentioned ..... 420
Van Vleck, Carter.
Mentioned ..... 420, 455
Report of reconnaissance from Rossville to La Fayette, Ga., April 11–13, 1864 ..... 661
Vaughn, John C. Mentioned ..... 96, 411
Veatch, James C.
Correspondence with
Dodge, Grenville M ..... 579
Hurlbut, Stephen A ..... 579
Sherman, William T ..... 577, 579, 581
Mentioned .... 169, 172, 190, 191, 195, 196, 203–206, 503–506, 509–511, 574, 575, 577–580
Reports of
Decatur, Ala.
Affair near, April 24, 1864 ..... 685
Skirmishes near.
April 18, 1864 ..... 671
April 27, 1864 ..... 686
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 201
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 575
Velguth, Adolph. Mentioned ..... 280
Vernay, James D. Mentioned ..... 189
Vick, L. W. Mentioned ..... 482
Vicksburg, Miss.
Advance of Union troops from. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Report of Sherman*, p. 175.
Expeditions from.
Jan. 10, 1864. See *Sunnyside Landing, Ark. Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to, Jan. 10–16, 1864.*
Jan. 29–Feb. 23, 1864. See *Waterproof, La. Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to, and skirmishes, Jan 29–Feb. 23, 1864.*
Feb. 15, 1864. See *Grand Gulf, Miss. Expedition from Vicksburg to, Feb. 15–March 6, 1864.*
Return of Sherman's forces to, March 4, 1864 ..... 165
Vicksburg, District of. Itinerary of John McArthur. Expedition up the Yazoo River, Miss., April 19–23, 1864, with skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel ..... 673
Vienna, Ala., Officer Commanding at. Correspondence with ——— Johnston ..... 678
Villepigue, John B. Mentioned ..... 621
Vincent, Joseph. Mentioned ..... 233
Virginia. Longstreet's Corps ordered from East Tennessee to, April 7, 1864 .. 5
Virginia, Trans-Alleghany or Western Department of. (Confederate.)
Breckinridge, John C., assumes command of ..... 4
Jones, Samuel, relieved from command of ..... 4

Page.

**Virginia Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **Nottoway**, 478.
Cavalry—*Battalions:* **27th**, 58, 61–63, 412, 414, 415; **34th**, **36th**, 412; **37th**, 62, 63, 412. *Regiments:* **8th**, 60–63, 412–415; **16th**, 67, 394, 395; **21st**, 412, 414, 415.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **9th**, **21st**, 58; **54th**, **63d**, 483; **64th**, 58, 64; **71st** [?], **85th** [?], **97th** [?], 58.
**Von Phul, Steamer.** Mentioned ... 178
**Vore, Harrison C.** Mentioned ... 316
**Waddell, James F.** Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864. 484
**Waddell, V. B.** Mentioned ... 385
**Wade, Alfred B.** Report of skirmish at Paint Rock Bridge, Ala., April 8, 1864. 658
**Wade, Benjamin F.** Mentioned ... 513, 534
**Wade, William B.** Mentioned ... 658
**Waggener, Robert.** Mentioned ... 454
**Wagner, George D.** Mentioned ... 14, 23, 628
**Walker, James B.** Mentioned ... 229
**Walker, William P.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ... 532
**Wallace, Samuel T.** Mentioned ... 89
**Wallace, Sir William, Steamer.** See *Sir William Wallace.*
**Wall Hill, Miss.** Affair at, Feb. 12, 1864 * ... 165
**Walter, Eugene E.** Mentioned ... 194
**War Department, C. S.** Correspondence with Jefferson Davis ... 60, 77, 344
**War Department, U. S.** Correspondence with
Brayman, Mason ... 518, 534
Washburn, Cadwallader C ... 586, 590
**Ward, Edward W.**
Mentioned ... 688
Report of reconnaissance from Ringgold toward Tunnel Hill, Ga., April 29, 1864 ... 689
**Ward, William T.**
Itineraries of 1st Division, 11th Army Corps, Feb., March, 1864 ... 25, 26
Mentioned ... 25, 26, 32
**Waring, George E., jr.**
Correspondence with
Grierson, Benjamin H ... 585
Smith, Andrew J ... 265
Smith, William Sooy ... 267
Itinerary of 1st Brigade, Cavalry Division, 16th Army Corps. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to Ripley, Miss., April 30–May 9, 1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn ... 701
Mentioned ... 112, 171, 193, 197, 255, 257, 265, 270, 273, 275, 276, 279, 280, 282–284, 287–289, 291, 292, 295, 297, 299, 303, 306, 581, 582, 696–702
Reports of
Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864, including operations since Jan. 22, 1864 ... 262, 265
Trenton, Tenn. Expedition from Union City to, Jan. 22–27, 1864 ... 112
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ... 582
**Warner, Charles N.** Mentioned ... 444
**Warner, Philip H.** Mentioned ... 419, 422, 428, 658
**Warren, Nehemiah.** Mentioned ... 93

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Washburn, Cadwallader C.**
Assignment to command ..... 6
Correspondence with
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 586, 588, 590, 591, 601
Lee, Stephen D ..... 587, 599, 603
War Department, U. S ..... 586, 596
Young, John T ..... 604
Mentioned ..... 514, 516, 606, 614, 616, 618, 694, 698, 699, 701
Reports of
Ripley, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April 30–May 9, 1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn ..... 693, 694
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 586
**Washington, Tenn.** Capture of, Feb. 26, 1864. Report of Robert K. Byrd ..... 485
**Watauga River, Tenn.** Expedition from Bull's Gap to, April 25–27, 1864. Report of John M. Schofield ..... 686
**Waterhouse's Mill and Boiling Springs, Tenn.** Skirmishes at, April 19–20, 1864. Reports of
La Grange, Oscar H ..... 673
McCook, Edward M ..... 672
**Waterproof, La.** Expedition from Vicksburg, Miss., to, and skirmishes, Jan. 29–Feb. 23, 1864. Report of Joseph M. Anderson ..... 157
**Waters, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 494
**Waters, Louis H.**
Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 432, 434
Report of demonstration on Dalton, Ga., Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 438
**Waters, Shelah.** Mentioned ..... 162
**Waties, John.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Watkins, Louis D.** Mentioned ..... 35
**Watson, ———.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Watson, J. A.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Watson, James A.** Mentioned ..... 435, 436
**Watson, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 644, 671
**Watson, William.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Watts, Elijah S.** Mentioned ..... 421
**Way, Isaac.** Mentioned ..... 233
**Weast, ———.** Mentioned ..... 158
**Weatherford, James W.**
Mentioned ..... 54, 645
Report of expedition from Burkesville, Ky., to Obey's River, Tenn., April 18–20, 1864 ..... 671
**Weatherspoon [?], Captain.** Mentioned ..... 484
**Weatherwax, Benjamin K.** Mentioned ..... 53
**Weaver, Henry F.**
Mentioned ..... 569
Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 538
**Webb, Junius Y.** Mentioned ..... 333
**Webster, M. L.** Mentioned ..... 290, 291, 294, 296
**Wedlin, ———.** Mentioned ..... 529
**Weeks, John.** Mentioned ..... 126
**Wehler, Edward.** Mentioned ..... 169
**Welch, James L.** Mentioned ..... 317
**Welcome, Steamer.** Mentioned ..... 397, 398

Page.
**Welles, George E.** Mentioned ..... 170
**Welles, Gideon.** Mentioned ..... 401
**Wells, B. F.** Mentioned ..... 639, 641
**Wells, Nelson.** Mentioned ..... 632, 633, 635, 636
**Wells, W. T.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Wenick, James E.** Mentioned ..... 583
**West, J. A.** Mentioned ..... 639
**Western Department of Virginia.** See *Virginia, Trans-Alleghany or Western Department of.*
**Westernhagen, Albert von.** Mentioned ..... 280
**Westmoreland,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 507
**West Point, Miss.**
Retreat of Smith's forces from, Feb. 21, 1864 ..... 165
Skirmish at, Feb. 21, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Burgh, Henry B. Hepburn, William P. Smith, William Sooy.
Forrest, Nathan B. Lee, Stephen D. Trafton, George W.
Skirmish near, Feb. 20, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Browne, Thomas M. Hepburn, William P. Smith, William Sooy.
Burgh, Henry B. Holahan, Amos J. Starr, Mathew H.
Coon, Datus E. Moore, Franklin. Trafton, George W.
**West Tennessee, District of.** Cadwallader C. Washburn assigned to command of ..... 6
**West Tennessee and Kentucky.** Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864.
Communications from
Anderson, Charles W ..... 595, 598
Booth, Lionel F ..... 560, 561, 594, 596, 597
Bragg, Braxton ..... 613
Brayman, Mason ..... 550
Buford, Abraham ..... 553
Ferguson, William ..... 599
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 545, 547, 548, 560, 561, 594, 596, 597, 599
Hicks, Stephen G ..... 547, 548
Hurlbut, Stephen A ..... 551, 556, 578, 579
Lawrence, William Hudson ..... 553
McPherson, James B ..... 555
Murphy, John ..... 580
Polk, Leonidas ..... 619
Sherman, William T ..... 577, 579, 581
Waring, George E., jr ..... 585
Young, John T ..... 594, 595
Congratulations of James R. Chalmers to the officers and men of his command ..... 622
Reports of
Beatty, John W ..... 542
Brayman, Mason ..... 502, 504, 507, 508
Chalmers, James R ..... 620
Chapman, James F ..... 551
Cleary, William ..... 563
Febles, John C ..... 583, 584
Ferguson, William ..... 571
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 607–609, 611, 613

Page.

**West Tennessee and Kentucky.** Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864—Continued.
Reports of
Goodwin, John ..... 619
Gray, Thomas P ..... 544
Grierson, Benjamin H ..... 581, 582
Harris, Thomas H ..... 556
Helmer, Robert W ..... 545
Hicks, Stephen G ..... 546, 547, 549
Hurlbut, Stephen A ..... 554, 555
Lamberg, Carl A ..... 566, 567
Lawrence, William Hudson ..... 552–554
Leaming, Mack J ..... 559
Lee, Stephen D ..... 606
Odlin, James H ..... 540–542
Shepley, George F ..... 572
Smith, Francis A ..... 563
Smith, William T ..... 568
Van Horn, Daniel ..... 569
Veatch, James C ..... 575
Waring, George E., jr ..... 582
Washburn, Cadwallader C ..... 586
Woodruff, John G ..... 558
Yorke, P. Jones ..... 585
Resolution of thanks of C. S. Congress to Nathan B. Forrest and the officers and men of his command ..... 619
See also *Fort Pillow, Tenn.*

**Wetherall, ———.** Mentioned ..... 643

**Wharton, Jack.** Mentioned ..... 333, 389

**Wheaton, Lloyd.** Mentioned ..... 129

**Wheeler, Joseph.**
Itineraries of Cavalry Corps, Army of Tennessee.
Dalton, Ga. Demonstration on, Feb. 22–27, 1864 ..... 484
Leet's Tan-yard, Ga. Skirmish at, March 5, 1864 ..... 490
Mentioned ..... 8, 15, 55, 128, 429, 438, 453, 478, 490, 661, 664, 688, 690

**Wheeler, Joseph E.** Mentioned ..... 103

**Wheeler, William W.**
Mentioned ..... 150, 160
Report of skirmish near Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 27, 1864 ..... 152

**Whipple, William D.**
Correspondence with George H. Thomas ..... 449, 450
Mentioned ..... 461, 463
For correspondence as A. A. G., see *George H. Thomas.*

**White Cloud,** Steamer. Mentioned ..... 505

**White, Julius.** Report of riot at Charleston, Coles County, Ill., March 28, 1864. 629

**White, Lyman A.** Mentioned ..... 160

**White, T. W.** Mentioned ..... 606

**White, William H.** Mentioned ..... 126

**Whitecotton, Peter.** Mentioned ..... 665

**White County, Tenn.** Skirmish in, Jan. 16, 1864 * ..... 1

**White and Putnam Counties, Tenn.** Scout in, Feb. 1–7, 1864. Report of William B. Stokes ..... 162
See also *general report of Thomas*, p. 8.

* No circumstantial reports on file.

Page.
**Whitesburg, Ala.** Operations about, Feb. 2, 1864. Report of John E. Tourtellotte ..... 163
**Whiteside's, Tenn.** Scout from. See *Stevens' and Frick's Gaps, Ga. Scout from Whiteside's, Tenn., to, Feb.* 25-26, 1864.
**Whitfield, George.** Mentioned ..... 402
**Whitsit, Charles W.** Mentioned ..... 291, 294, 295
**Wickliffe, Nathaniel.** Mentioned ..... 334
**Wieser, Rudolph.** Mentioned ..... 278
**Wilborn, George.** Mentioned ..... 530
**Wild, Henry.** Mentioned ..... 650
**Wilder, John T.** Mentioned ..... 40
**Wiles, Greenberry F.** Mentioned ..... 170
**Wiles, William M.** Mentioned ..... 102. 103
**Willard, John P.** For correspondence as A. D. C., see *George H. Thomas.*
**Willcox, Orlando B.**
Assignment to command ..... 2
Itinerary of 9th Army Corps, March, 1864 ..... 49
Mentioned ..... 48, 58
Reports of
Jonesville, Va. Action at, Jan. 3, 1864 ..... 57
Strawberry Plains and Armstrong's Ferry, Tenn. Skirmishes at, Jan. 21-22, 1864 ..... 106, 107
Resumes command of 9th Army Corps ..... 4
**Willett & Boswell,** Messrs. Mentioned ..... 628
**William Wallace, Sir,** Steamer. See *Sir William Wallace.*
**Williams [?], ———.** Mentioned ..... 685
**Williams, Lieutenant.** (Confederate.) Mentioned ..... 519
**Williams, Lieutenant.** (Union.) Mentioned ..... 500
**Williams, Alpheus S.**
Itineraries of 1st Division, 12th Army Corps, Jan.-March, 1863 ..... 26-28
Mentioned ..... 26-29, 32
**Williams, B. F.** Mentioned ..... 643
**Williams, E. D.** Mentioned ..... 355
**Williams, George A.** Mentioned ..... 289
**Williams, Isaiah H.** Mentioned ..... 404
**Williams, James M.** Mentioned ..... 402
**Williams, Martin H.** Mentioned ..... 251
**Williams, Rebecca.**
Mentioned ..... 533, 565
Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 533
**Williams, S. C.** Mentioned ..... 478
**Williams, William.** Mentioned ..... 234
**Williams, William F.** Mentioned ..... 533
**Williams, William S.** Mentioned ..... 170, 192, 573
**Willich, August.** Mentioned ..... 24, 79, 160
**Willison, Asias.** Mentioned ..... 419, 422, 467, 468
**Wilson, A. N.** Mentioned ..... 621
**Wilson, De Witt C.** Mentioned ..... 316
**Wilson, Jacob.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 539
**Wilson, James.** Mentioned ..... 528, 564
**Wilson, J. G.** Mentioned ..... 372
**Wilson, John D.** Mentioned ..... 466
**Wilson, J. P.** For correspondence as A. A. G., see *Thomas C. Hindman.*

Page.
**Wilson, Robert H.** Mentioned ..... 71
**Wilsonville, Tenn.** Capture of forage wagons near, Jan. 22, 1864.
Communications from
Foster, John G ..... 111
Sturgis, Samuel D ..... 111
Reports of
Longstreet, James ..... 112
McCook, Edward M ..... 110
Sturgis, Samuel D ..... 110
**Windes, F. M.** Mentioned ..... 123
**Winegardner, Aaron S.** Mentioned ..... 440
**Winkler, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 633, 635, 643
**Winkler, William.** Mentioned ..... 145
**Winkler, Young E.** Mentioned ..... 635, 643
**Winn, William A.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 533
**Winslow, Edward F.**
Mentioned ..... 171, 172, 175–178, 186, 187, 189, 190, 193, 209, 210, 213
Report of Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3–March 6, 1864 ..... 248
**Winston, Robert.** Mentioned ..... 522
**Winston, Thomas** Correspondence with Smith D. Atkins ..... 684
**Wisconsin Troops.** Mentioned.
Artillery, Light—*Batteries:* **3d**, 16; **5th**, 11; **6th**, 665; **8th**, 16; **10th**, 36.
Cavalry—*Regiments:* **1st**, 86, 90, 140, 144, 145, 404–406, 669; **2d**, 170, 192, 397.
Infantry—*Regiments:* **1st**, 420; **3d**, 27; **8th**, 168; **10th**, 419, 452–454; **12th**, 171, 193, 214, 238, 246–248; **13th**, 11; **14th**, **16th**, 214; **18th**, 122; **21st**, 29–31; **22d**, 25; **25th**, 169, 195, 196, 201, 204–207, 503, 509, 575; **26th**, 25, 32; **32d**, 169, 191, 195, 196, 203–205, 207, 208, 503, 509, 575; **33d**, 171, 193, 214, 238, 242–245.
**Wise, Kenneth D.** Mentioned ..... 411
**Wiseman, Theodore.** Mentioned ..... 458–460
**Witherspoon, [?] ———.** Mentioned ..... 664
**Wolfe, Edward H.** Mentioned ..... 169, 191, 200
**Wolford, Frank.**
Itinerary of Cavalry Corps, Army of the Ohio, Jan., 1864 ..... 54
Mentioned ..... 33, 35, 42, 44, 54, 79–81, 83, 86–89, 92, 111, 131–139, 145, 147
Report of operations about Dandridge, Tenn., including skirmishes (16th) at Kimbrough's Cross-Roads and on Bend of Chucky Road, and action (17th) near Dandridge, Jan. 16–17, 1864 ..... 91
**Wood, Colonel.** Mentioned ..... 326, 327
**Wood, James, jr.** Mentioned ..... 32
**Wood, Richard B.** Mentioned ..... 38, 421
**Wood, Robert C., jr.** Mentioned ..... 333, 372–374
**Wood, Thomas J.**
Mentioned ..... 22–24, 52
Reports of reconnaissances from Powder Springs Gap toward Rogersville and Bull's Gap, Tenn., April 2–4, 1864 ..... 656, 657
**Wood, William.** Mentioned ..... 421
**Woodall's Bridge, Ala.** Skirmish at, April 7, 1864. Report of James H. Clanton ..... 657
**Woodruff, John G.**
Mentioned ..... 519
Report of Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee and Kentucky, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 558

Page.

**Woods, Charles R.** Reports of
North Alabama. Operations in, Jan. 23-29, 1864 ..... 120
Woodville, Ala. Affair near, Jan. 23, 1864 ..... 115
**Woods, William W.** Mentioned ..... 700
**Woodville, Ala.**
Affair near, Jan. 23, 1864. Report of Charles R. Woods ..... 115
Scout from, March 30, 1864. Report of Peter J. Osterhaus ..... 654
**Woodward, Captain.** Mentioned ..... 672
**Woodward, Samuel L.** Mentioned ..... 261
**Woolly, George W.** Report of scout from Lookout Valley to Deer Head Cove, Ga., March 29-31, 1864 ..... 652
**Wooster, William B.**
Mentioned ..... 100
Report of skirmish at Tracy City, Tenn., Jan. 20, 1864 ..... 97
**Worley, William P.** Mentioned ..... 102
**Wright, John A.** Mentioned ..... 428
**Wyatt, Miss.**
Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, Feb. 6-18, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864. Reports of McMillen*, p. 196; *Smith*, p. 255.
Skirmish at, Feb. 13, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864. Itinerary of 1st Brig., 1st Div., 16th Army Corps*, p. 198.
**Wyerman's Mills, Va.** Skirmish at. See *Gibson's and Wyerman's Mills, Va. Skirmishes at, on Indian Creek, and at Powell's Bridge, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864.*
**Wyeth, N. L.** Mentioned ..... 641
**Yandle, W. J.** Mentioned ..... 355
**Yarnell, John G.** Mentioned ..... 126
**Yarnell, Thomas.** Mentioned ..... 126
**Yazoo City, Miss.**
Abandonment of, by the Union forces, March 6, 1864 ..... 165
Attack on, March 5, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Coates, James H. McPherson, James B. Richardson, Robert V.
Jackson, William H. Polk, Leonidas. Ross, Lawrence S.
Lee, Stephen D.
Occupation of, by Union forces, Feb. 9-March 6, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864. Report of Coates*, p. 322.
Sketch of expedition to ..... 331
Skirmish near, Feb. 28, 1864. See *Meridian, Miss., Expedition, etc., Feb. 3-March 6, 1864. Reports of*
Coates, James H. Lee, Stephen D. Ross, Lawrence S.
**Yazoo River, Miss.** Expedition up the, April 19-23, 1864, with skirmishes at and near Mechanicsburg, and capture of U. S. gunboat Petrel
Communications from Leonidas Polk ..... 675, 676
Itineraries.
McArthur, John (District of Vicksburg) ..... 673
Scofield, Hiram (2d Brigade, 1st Division, U. S. C. T., 17th Army Corps) 674
Reports of
Adams, Wirt ..... 675, 676
Osband, Embury D. ..... 674
**Yearout, Abraham.** Mentioned ..... 126
**Yearout, Samuel.** Mentioned ..... 126

Page.
**Yerger, George.** Mentioned ..... 374
**Yerger, W. S.** Mentioned ..... 374
**York, Shuball.** Mentioned ..... 633, 634, 636
**Yorke, P. Jones.**
Mentioned ..... 284, 585
Reports of
Ripley, Miss. Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to, April 30–May 9, 1864, and skirmish (May 2) at Bolivar, Tenn ..... 702
West Tennessee and Kentucky. Forrest's Expedition into, March 16–April 14, 1864 ..... 585
**Young, John T.**
Correspondence with
Davis, H. C ..... 594
Forrest, Nathan B ..... 595
Washburn, Cadwallader C ..... 604
Mentioned ..... 560, 592, 597, 598, 601, 603, 616–618
**Young, Philip.** Statement of. Treatment of Union prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Tenn., April 12, 1864 ..... 540
**Young, William H.** Mentioned ..... 333

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